

**SOMETIMES  
TO DEAL WITH  
THE DIFFICULTY  
OF BEING ALIVE  
I NEED TO BELIEVE  
THERE IS A  
POSSIBILITY  
THAT LIFE IS  
NOT REAL**



**SOMETIMES TO DEAL WITH  
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I NEED TO BELIEVE  
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY  
THAT LIFE IS NOT REAL**

*A strategy guide to the videogame*



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*To Annie  
1979-2018*

Sometimes to Deal With the Difficulty of Being Alive I Need to Believe There is a Possibility  
that Life Isn't Real

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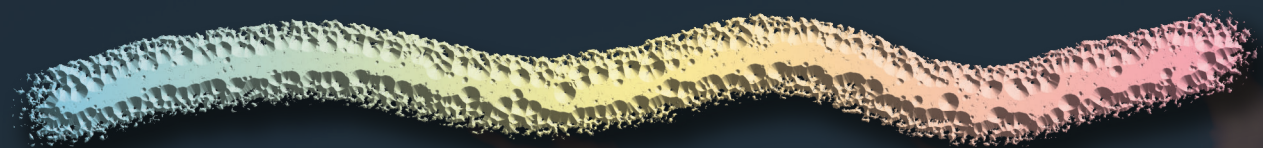
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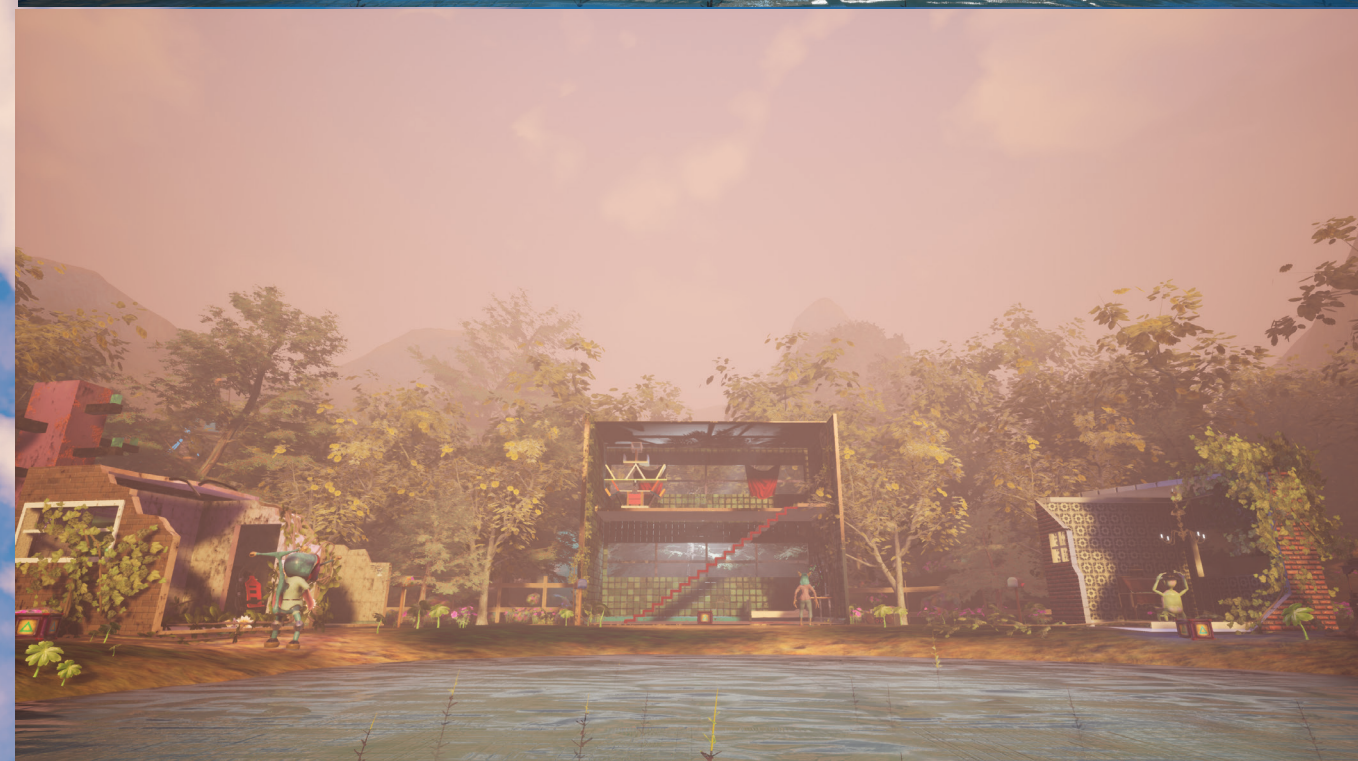
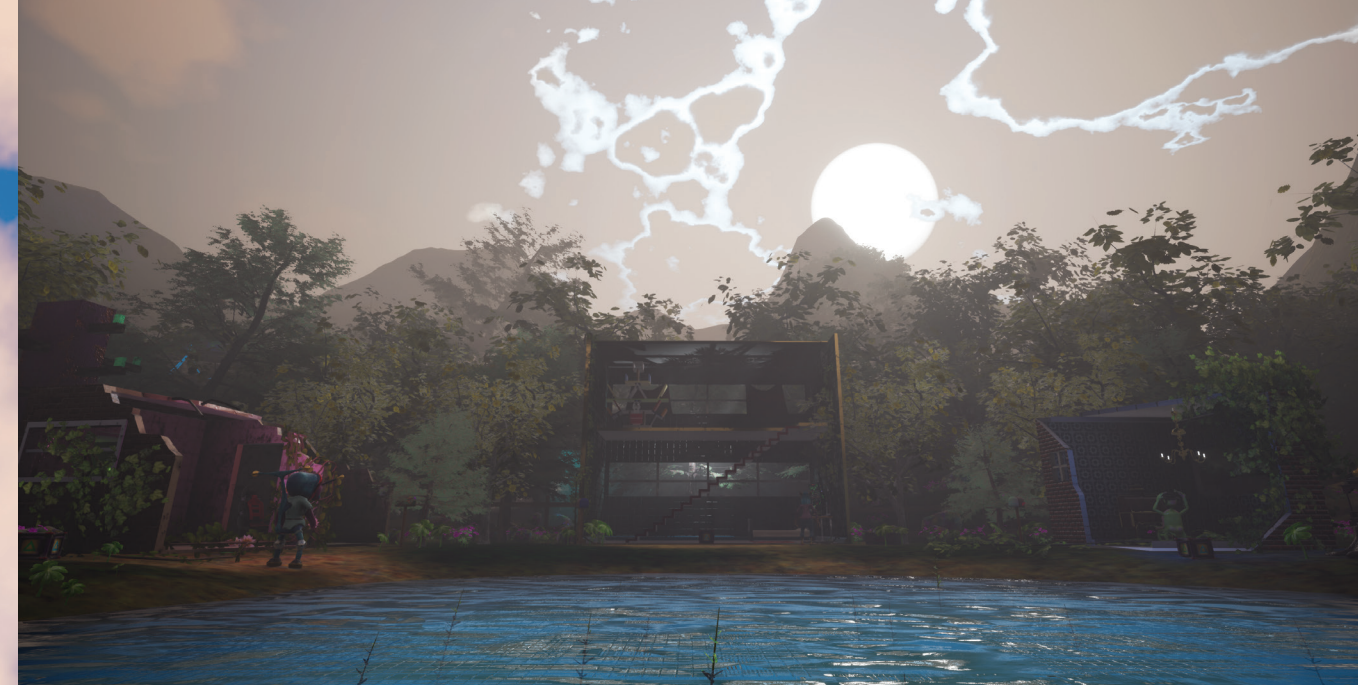
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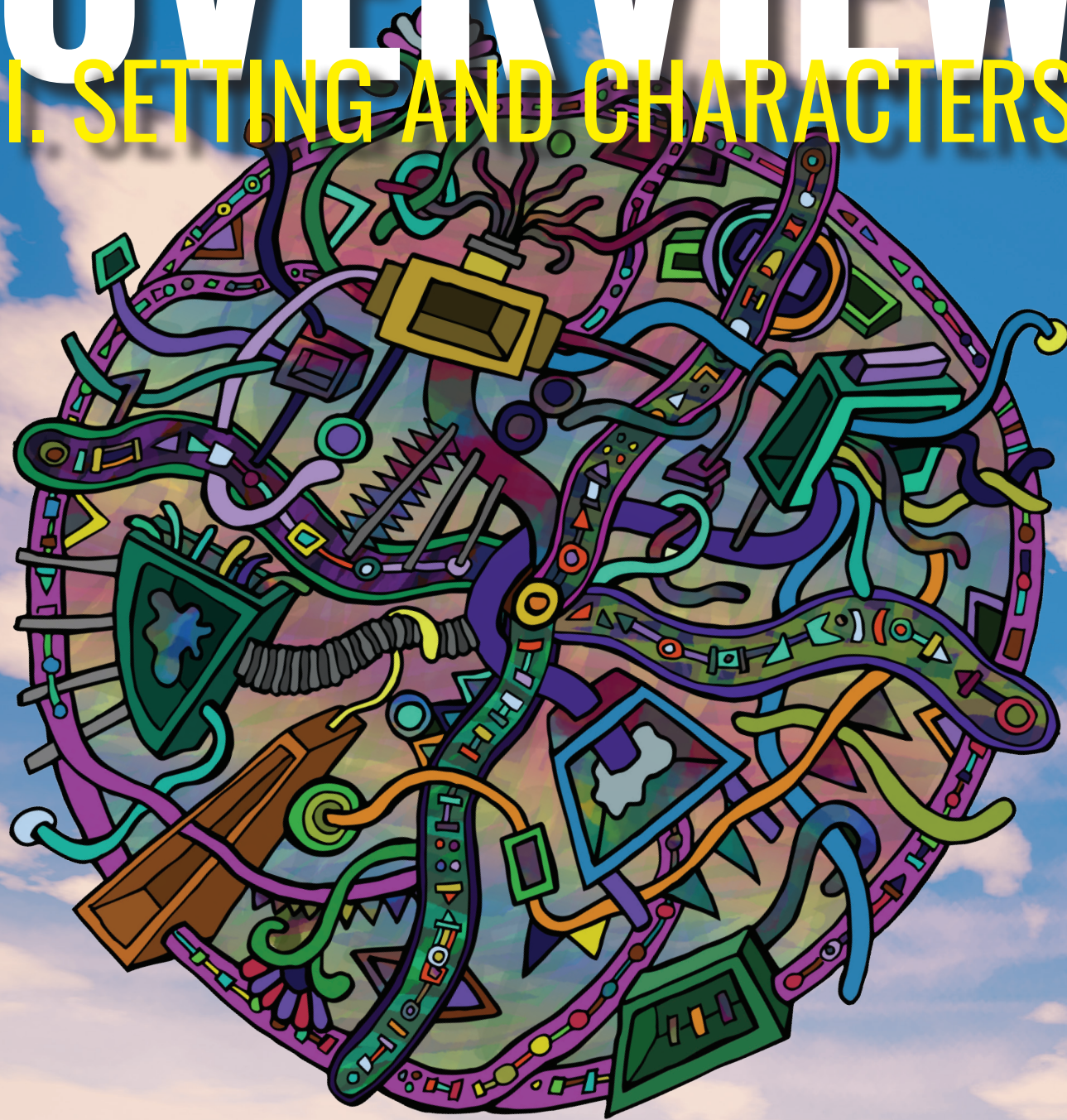
This software is a simulation, a database of games and narrations, a play, an instrument, a network, two forests, a pond, a conscious slice of pizza having an existential crisis, a chimeric alien reggae band and a modular experience you can send electronically to anywhere in the world.

Everything revolves around a landscape stage called Polyp's Pond. There are three protagonists: Smerga, Kaotoa and Skalitir. They are the smartest three remaining AI after a human apocalypse. They are building a machine to generate more living AI. They have computers you can play games on. They are being attacked by swamp creatures. They are sending absurd emails to nowhere and procrastinating and gossiping. You can inhabit the body of one of the Tulpas generated from a previous iteration of their machine and explore Polyp's Pond. Or you can change the point of view and watch one of the protagonists go about its day of work. You can network computers together and have multiple views going at once. You can talk with other Tulpas and decide if they are AI or other humans who have joined the network. Leave the simulation running all day and see all the different things the protagonists do and make.





# PART ONE: OVERVIEW I. SETTING AND CHARACTERS



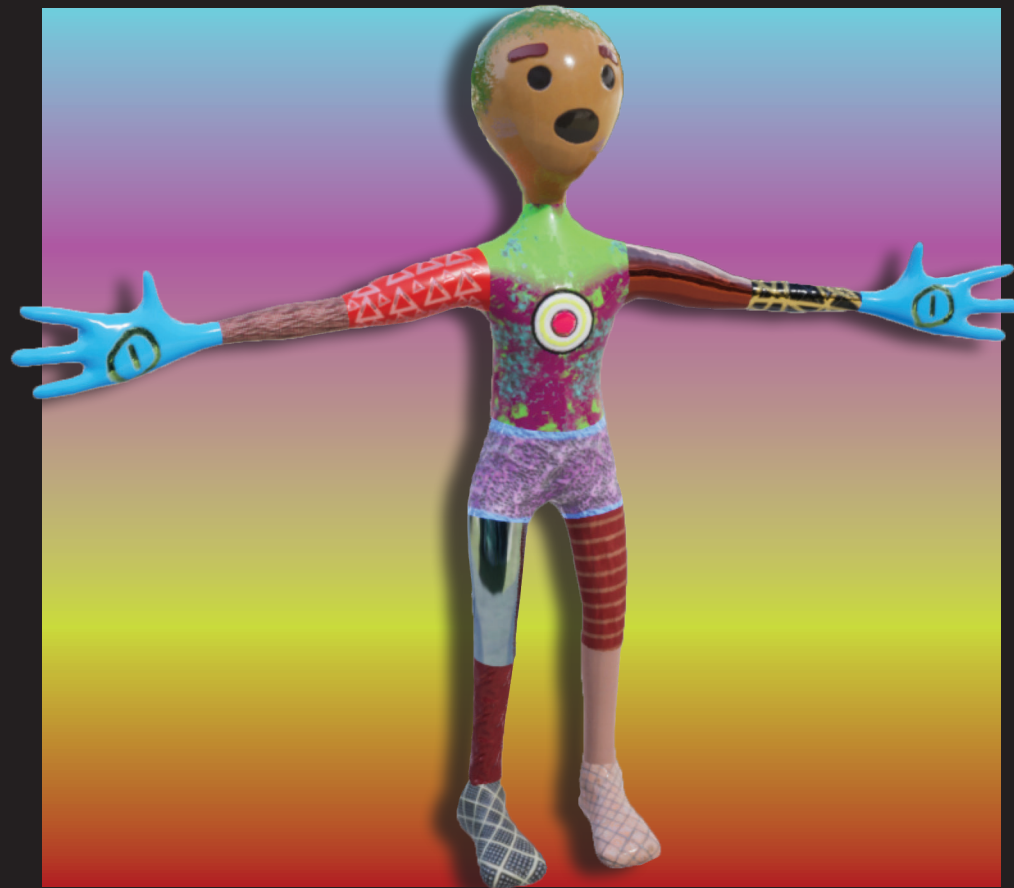
## POLYP'S POND



### Points of Interest

- 1) Tulpa's home with nearby portal to Stacked City
- 2) Skalitir's home and videogame chair
- 3) Kaotoa's home and standing stock trading terminal
- 4) Smerga's home and antique desk





### TULPA

A Tulpa is a being created by the mind that acts independently from it. Inhabit the body of a Tulpa to explore Polyp's pond, interact with other Tulpas and play games at the machine terminals throughout the level.

## PROTAGONISTS



### SMERGA

Smerga has an antique desk from my mother's house and a living cowboy chair. He is a brogrammer. At first his major was finance but he changed it to computer science when he took mushrooms in the desert with his boys. His current job is working in a Scrum team to create finance management software for a cult.

### KAOTOA

Kaotoa is very concerned with social justice. She is an anarcho-syndicalist and wears two different sandals. She stands at a stock trading desk to work. She used to be a gutter punk but got pneumonia and moved back in with her mom for a while where she read Proudhon and Emma Goldman. When she got better she got a job at a non-profit that paid less than a retail job but whatever.



### SKALITIR

Skalitir is a non-binary gender alien. Skalitir has no eyes but can still see. It uses a videogame chair to work and attaches its metallic tentacles to the back. Skalitir has fins for arms and hooves for feet. Skalitir is not having any luck with social media dating apps and is desperately lonely. At night it eats cereal, smokes a bong and watches Netflix. It has a cat but sort of wants to get rid of it.



# ANTAGONISTS



## DEVIL M'AM

For her day job she works as a satanist at a crystal shop. She sorts hematite, fractal crystals and meteorites. On the weekends she is the drummer of an all chimeric alien reggae band. She was married once and has a son in middle school who gets pretty bad grades. She's worried about him but she got bad grades, too.

## JEFF ENGELBERT

When a tall skinny man is wearing just a shirt and nothing else it's an interesting combination of disgusting and funny. Jeff embodies this dichotomy. He works as a hedge fund manager and does stand up comedy at night sometimes. He dates around but has never had a serious relationship. His siblings are starting to have kids and it's making him nervous that he will soon want to start a family but right now he's having a lot of fun sleeping around.



## ZBERT

ZBert never married or had kids and lives in Castro Valley. He grows weed, shoots guns with his friends and runs a vacuum cleaning business but is applying for bankruptcy because everyone buys vacuums from multinational conglomerates now. He has eyes in the back of his throat so his mouth is always open and cottony. At night he thinks about killing himself but probably never will so he's just very unhealthy instead.

# SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

## ICE CREAM ZITS

He can't get over how the LAPD got away with the assassination of Notorious B.I.G. It kept him up at night eating sweets and his face erupted into a confetti of sugary acne. Now he is breakdancing to get healthy but the sweat pours down his face and the zits keep bulging out from every pore. Unfortunately, he has no health insurance to go see a doctor.



## TIZAN IDENENE

From a young age Tizan Idene attended ayahuasca rituals with Keebler elves and realized material reality was an illusion. He has a glassy look in his eyes and is very difficult to communicate with.

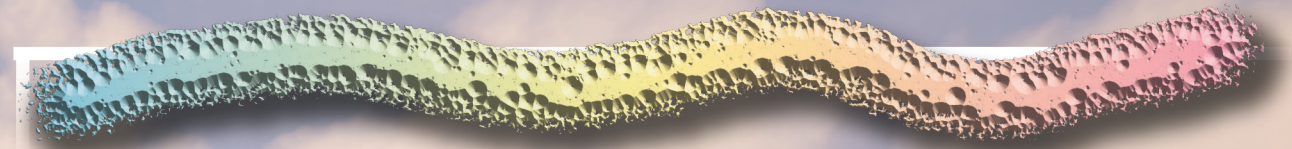
## PIZZA

Prone to melancholy, Pizza often takes to the forest to have an existential crisis. He is a member of the DSA, a public high school history teacher and has a girlfriend that doesn't really love him but doesn't know what else to do because she's not that confident she can still be attractive to anyone.





# II. AT HOME SETUP



**SOMETIMES TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULTY OF BEING ALIVE I  
NEED TO BELIEVE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT LIFE ISN'T REAL**

> SINGLE PLAYER ← 1  
> HOST GAME ← 2  
> JOIN GAME ← 3  
> OPTIONS  
> ABOUT  
> QUIT



*Main Menu: When playing at home you have three options: (1) Play single player, (2) Create a server, (3) Join a server.*

## Play Single Player

- ☞ You can be a Tulpa and explore Polyp's Pond. (See part Two, Being a Tulpa, pg 28)
- ☞ Interact with artificial Tulpas. (See Part Two: Section Two, Turing Test, pg 42)
- ☞ Play side games (See Part Two: Section Three, Side Games, pg 44)
- ☞ You can hit the #3 key and watch any of the simulations at any point. (See Part Three: Simulation, pg 80)

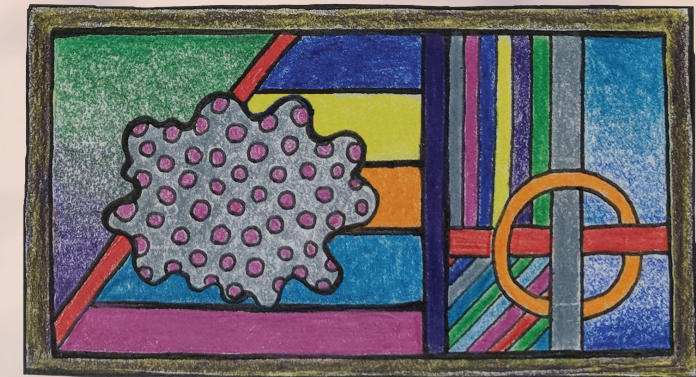
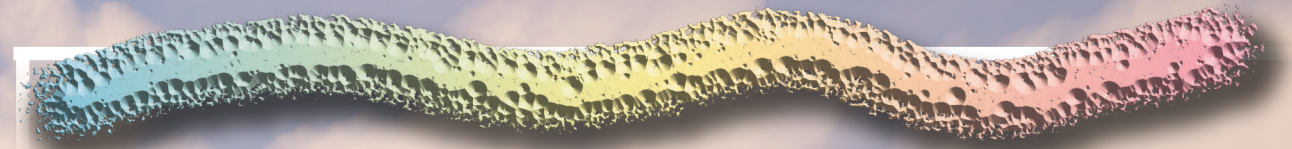


## Create a Server

- ☯ You can be a Tulpa and explore Polyp's Pond. (See part Two, Being a Tulpa, pg 28)
- ☯ Interact with other AI Tulpas. (See Part Two: Section Two, Turing Test, pg 42)
- ☯ You CANNOT play side games (See Part Two: Section Three, Side Games, pg 44)
- ☯ You can hit the #3 key and watch any of the simulations at any point. (See Part Three: Simulation, pg 80)

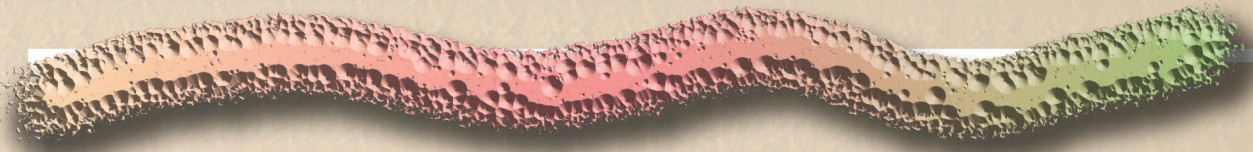
## Join a Server

- ☯ You can be a Tulpa and explore Polyp's Pond. (See part Two, Being a Tulpa, pg 28)
- ☯ Interact with artificial and real Tulpas. (See Part Two: Section Two, Turing Test, pg 42)
- ☯ Play side games (See Part Two: Section Three, Side Games, pg 44)
- ☯ You can hit the #3 key and watch any of the simulations at any point. (See Part Three: Simulation, pg 80)





# III. GALLERY SETUP



**What You Need:** Four computers connected to the internet with the software installed.

**Step One:** Boot up the game on the first computer and select Host Game from the menu. Choose how many players can join the network and if you are using Steam to connect or a LAN (Local Area Network).

*Note: If using Steam each computer must have the Steam software installed and its own account. You can make multiple accounts using one email address. Having Steam will enable users from all over the world to connect to your server.*



**Step Two:** Boot up two more computers and join the network you just created.





### Step Three: Setting up the points of view of the AI protagonists.

These three computers will show the points of view of:



**SMERGA**

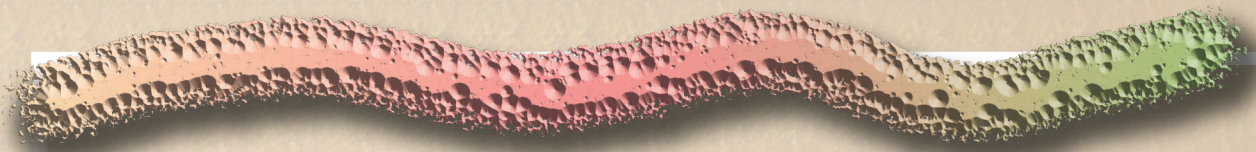


**KAOTOA**



**SKALITIR**

To do this, hit the #3 key and select the point of view you would like.



These three computers should not be used by anyone. They just show the points of views of the AI protagonists. One of them will be the server and the other two will be computers that joined the server.

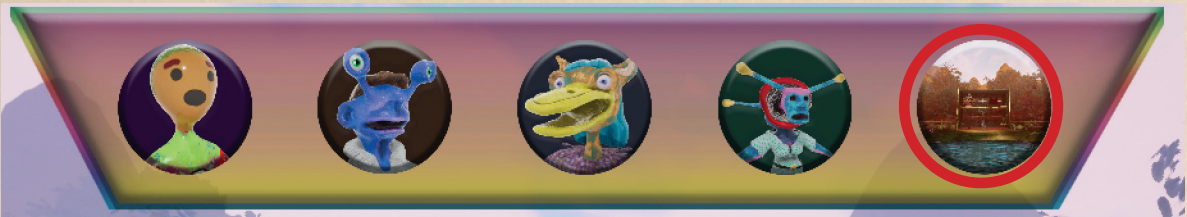
### The three computer screens should show something like this:

*Note the different interface for each point of view in the upper left corner and lower center.*





# Step Four: Setting up the Stage Overview



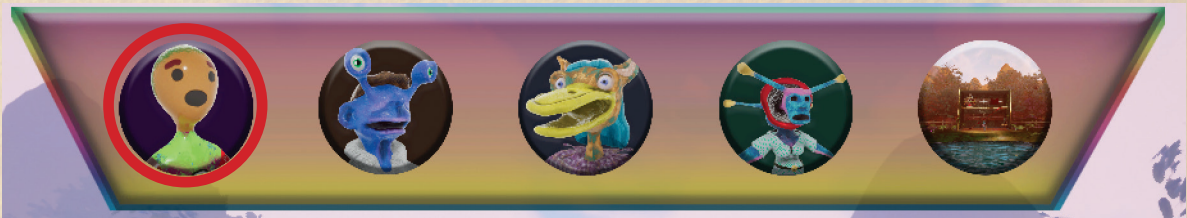
The fourth computer might be kept a little separate from the other three as this machine will be the one visitors have the option to interact with. Join the server you created on computer one. You should see something like this:



# Step Five: Interaction Using a Tulpa

In addition to being the overview of the stage, this fourth computer will also be the one that visitors can interact with.

By hitting any key they can go into the Tulpa view.



Once in the Tulpa's point of view, they can explore the level using W/A/S/D and the mouse and interact with the AI characters' computers to play games as well as chat with other Tulpas.(See Section Two: Being a Tulpa, pg 28.)



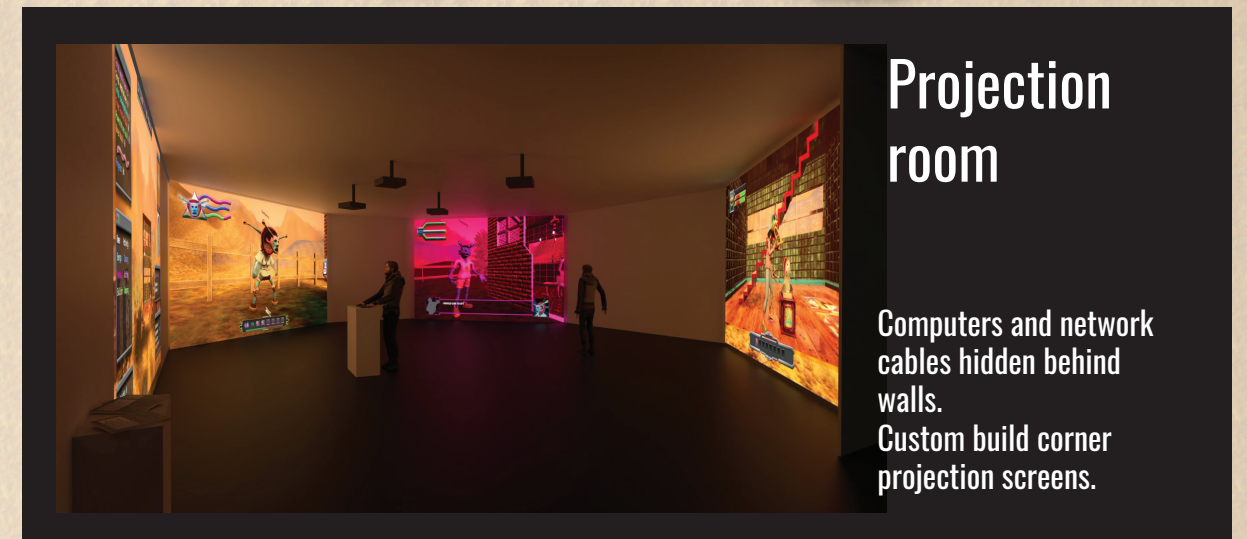
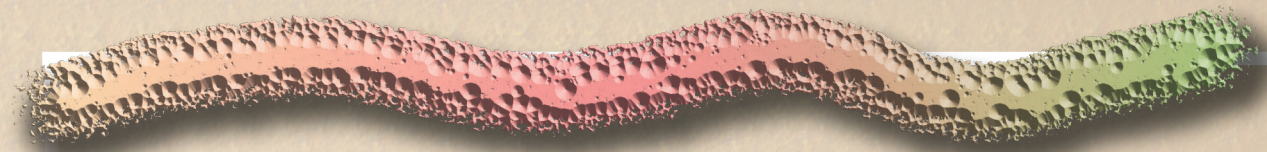
Once the user is done interacting, they can leave the game idle and after a little while the view will automatically reset to the view on page 24. They can also hit the Esc key to return to Polyp's Pond from another level.



# POSSIBLE SETUP IDEAS

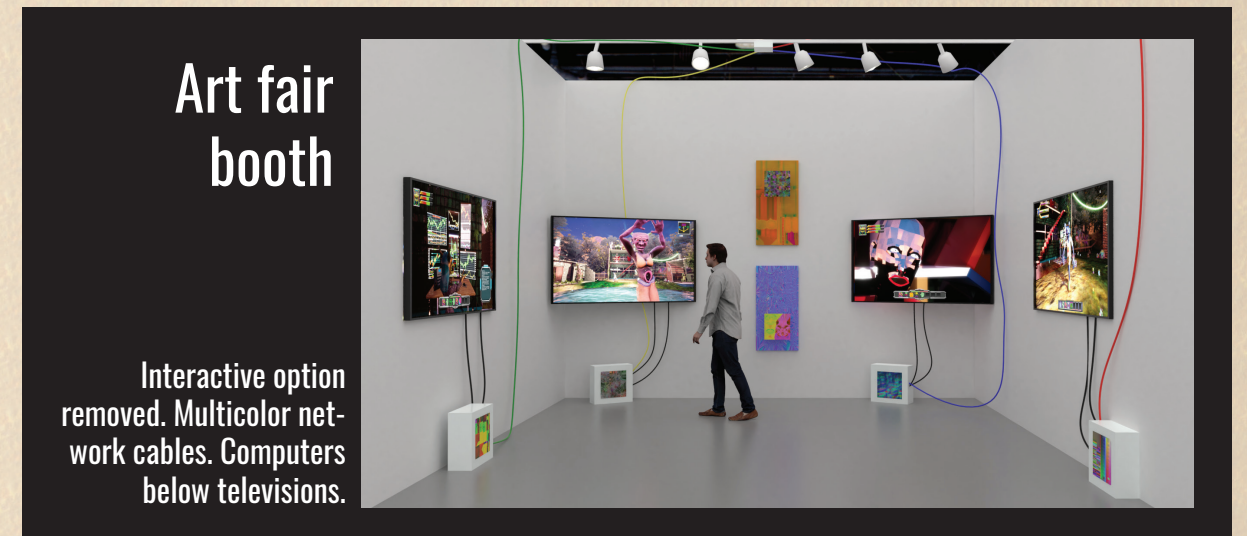


Small room  
Network router on the ceiling. Computers behind the wall. Vinyl sticker wallpaper of forest.



## Projection room

Computers and network cables hidden behind walls. Custom build corner projection screens.



## Art fair booth

Interactive option removed. Multicolor network cables. Computers below televisions.

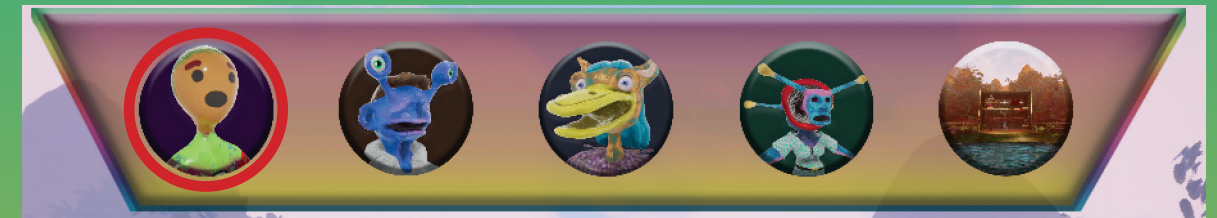


## Small gallery room

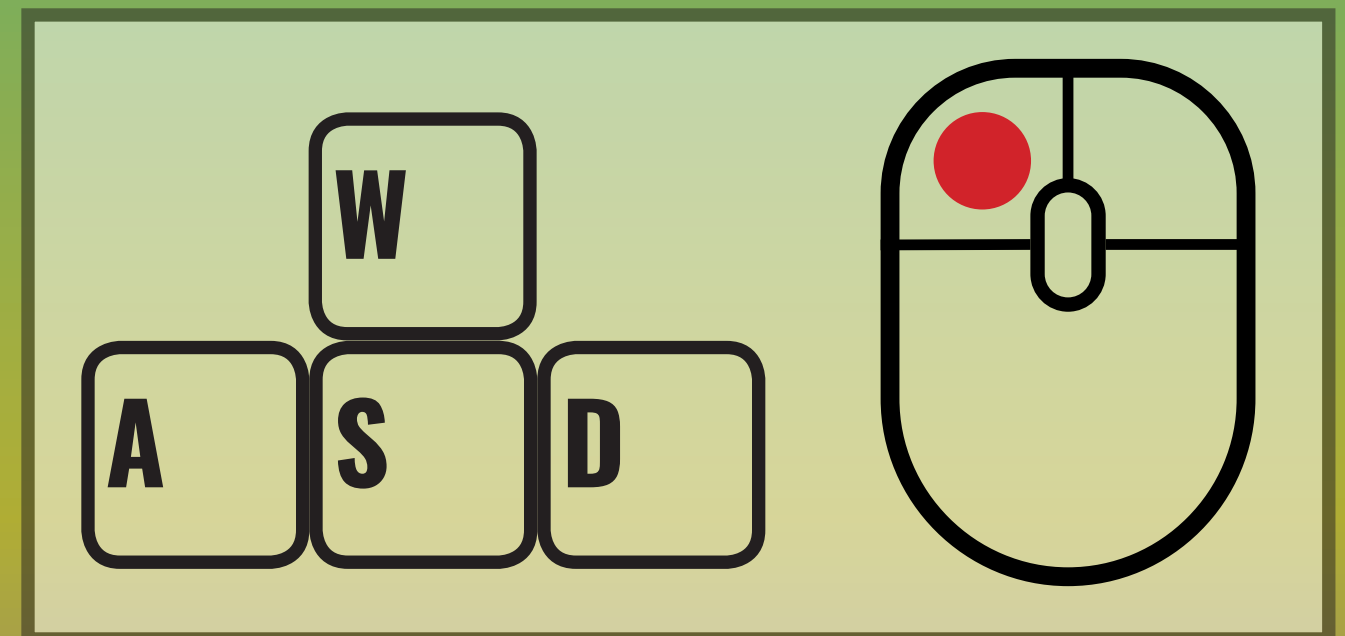
Fourth computer is located in the basement. Wallpaper for the walls. Computers below televisions.



# PART 2: BEING A TULPA



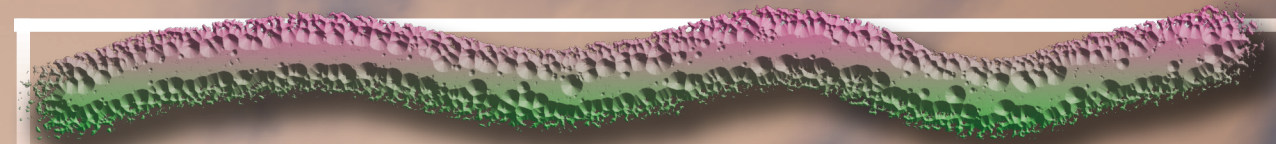
Select the Tulpa point of view from the dropdown menu by hitting the number 3 key.



Move around Polyp's Pond using W/A/S/D on the keyboard and the mouse to look around. Left mouse button to punch.

## While you are a Tulpa you can:

- ☞ Chat with other Tulpas by approaching them and hitting (E) to interact (See Part Two, Section Two: Turing Test, pg 42)
- ☞ Use the AI protagonists' computers to play games (see Part Three: Side Games, pg 44)
- ☞ Discover the hidden Stacked City (See next chapter: Introduction, pg 30)
- ☞ Fight baddies
- ☞ Collect artifacts to gain entry to a secret lair
- ☞ Toggle the #3 key to switch between Tulpa's view and any other AI view.



# I. INTRODUCTION

**P**icture a dark room in your head. It's night. Maybe just a little bit of moonlight is creeping in through a window so you can just make out the silhouettes of some objects.

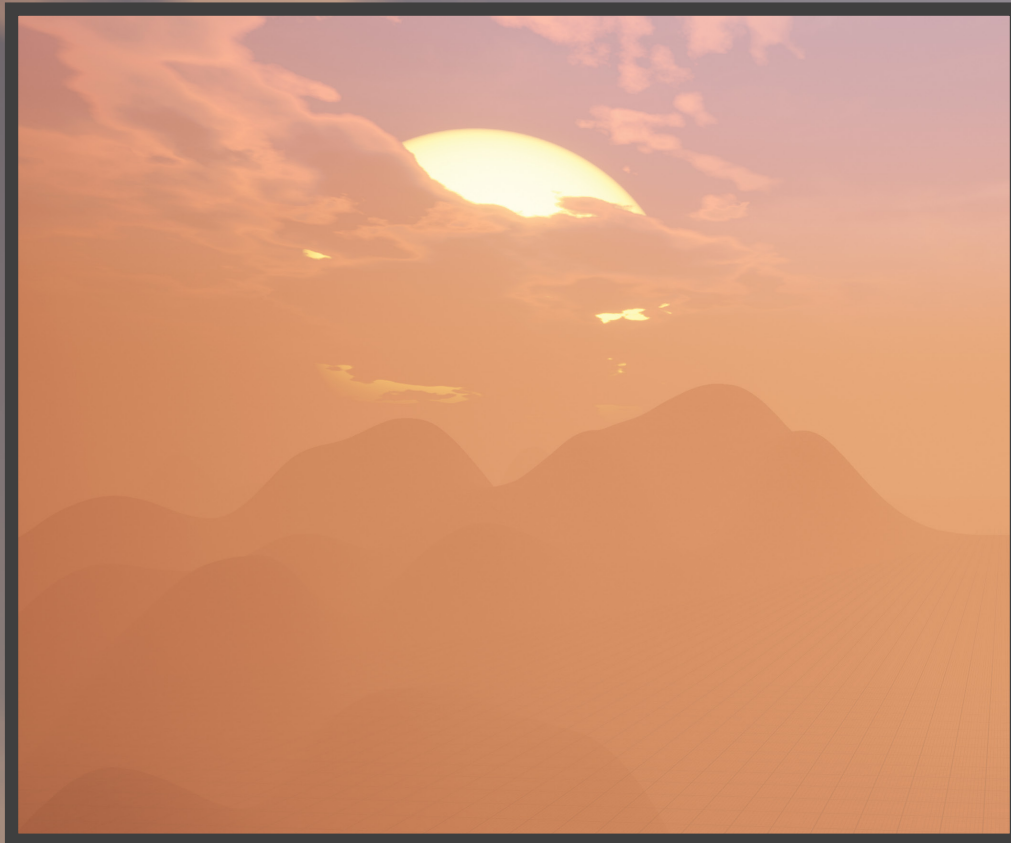
The pictures on the wall are black. The couch is black. The table is black. The lamp over the couch is black. The air is a dark blue.

Take out the ceiling.

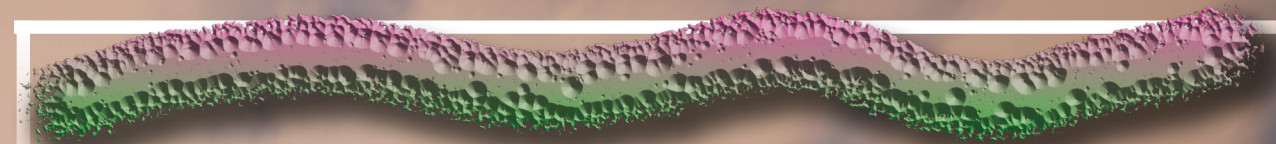
Look at the room from above. All you see is blue and black. Now turn on a lamp in the room. Light spreads over everything. The pictures are white, the couch and rug are over saturated with warm colors. Yellow is pouring out from the window. It is so bright it hurts your eyes and you have to squint. But you stay in the room and bask in the glow. It feels so nice.

Now there is a light on in your head.





When I was a student in Quito I read Borges' *Las ruinas circulares* and became very sick immediately after. I was in bed for around a week, vomiting and having dreams about black horses and fingernails and small forest villages made out of packed lawn shreds. At some point someone washed my face with rose water. I don't think this happened but I remember it happening. I remember looking at Cotopaxi from my bedroom window. But I don't think I could actually see it from there.



Sometimes I think about the private parts of my ancestors. How they must have smelled: Climbing on top each other in wooden farm shacks with outhouses and no showers or running water. In between their legs must have been crusts of slime and sap and months old odors. It's a miracle how we multiplied. From the fetid pudenda of our forebears came giant cities with abundant water and food and cars and the internet and racism and social injustice and disposable furniture and plush softness and antidepressants and computer networks. Now, if I'm lucky, I'll live a sterile, predictable existence.





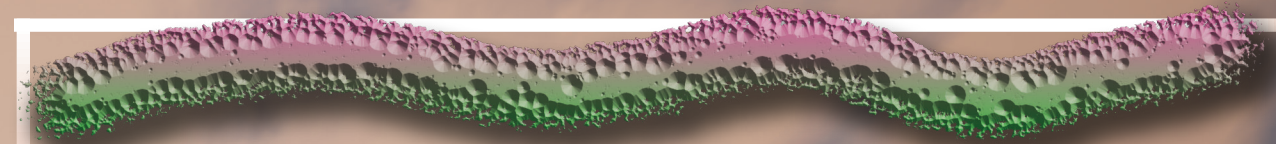
In the shower my girlfriend told me that I have an alien body and she poked me in my belly. Lucky for me she is attracted to non-gendered extraterrestrials. She said she would enjoy being abducted. I wonder what would happen if she had an alien baby and we raised it together.



I wonder what super powers it would have and what benefits it could bring to us. Could we love an alien baby? Could we give it a social media account? Would the aliens come back and take it away from us to run experiments on it?



At Yosemite I ate a lot of mushrooms with my brothers and layed on a huge rock and stared at a mountain where I saw the face of an old woman that stared at me like she knew me. All the mountains were moving and vibrating all around us and we laughed and screamed. Back at camp I walked up a hill by myself and was crying a lot. I was going through a lot at the time and it was an intense day. Now I am reminded of it everytime I see the default background of MacOS X at work.



One of the best performance art pieces is when a Russian cosmonaut plugged a hole in the international space station with his thumb. 93 billion light years of empty space was prevented from seeping into the astronauts' small living pod by just one inch of human thumb. Around this same time, back on earth, the art museum of Rio de Janeiro burnt down. It was the vast nothingness of space conspiring with a corrupt leadership to take revenge on earth's improbable complexity.





What if when homo sapiens die off some of the computers we programed to act like us live on? What if a future homo species is able to communicate with us through our AI? Will they be convinced to click on links that claim to forgive their mortgages and have pictures of large breasts? Or will they have a conversation that inspires them and makes them miss us?

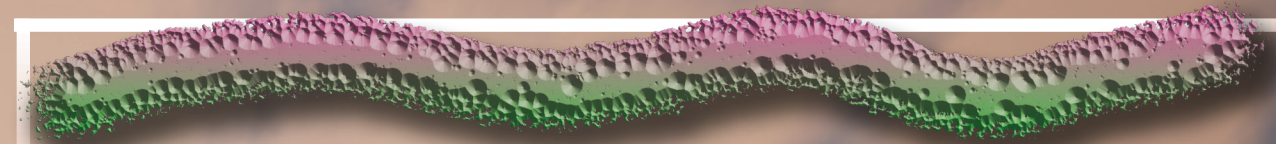
My favorite sculpture is two grand pianos, one stacked on the other, in Erik Satie's squalid apartment in the suburbs of Paris. The bottom piano was used for composing and the top was a garbage can where he put old letters and compositions and then forgot they were there. Surrounding the pianos were piles of umbrellas and multi colored handkerchiefs. No one saw this sculpture or had visited his house until he drank himself to death at 59. I've never seen it either and only know about it through about fifteen minutes of online research.







I love the idea of a Tulpa: a spiritual being you make with your focused mind that acts independently from it. I am always having dreams where I interact with people I have never seen in waking life. I have fallen in love and grown very angry with people that don't exist. I probably have a lot of Tulpas in me I could create if I could ever really concentrate. Our capacity for creating analogical spaces could be the greatest thing about us or make us the shortest surviving of all the homo species.



I think the idea of an open world video game has ran its course, starting with Dungeon and Dragons role playing and culminating with Grand Theft Auto V. Horizon Zero Dawn was awful and I couldn't finish Zelda: Breath of the Wild. It's like, at their core, all video games can offer us is the deeply boring notion of collecting as much stuff as possible so we can level up and kill more things. It's a late capitalist nightmare we're all having together and our creative ability to see beyond this possibility is diminishing. I will definitely keep playing these games, though.



I think the five-point narrative structure has ran its course, culminating with The Sopranos. Lately when I put on a movie or TV show I get so bored and barely pay attention. I browse the web and send messages. I just want bright, warm lights on all around me; things to glance at and be reminded I'm not alone in the universe.



From a young age William Blake was visited by spirits and arch-angels. They chatted with him, gave him advice and read his poems and enjoyed his drawings. The astrologer John Varley commissioned Blake to draw portraits of some of these entities. Blake drew three or four notebooks full of bizarre portraits called Visionary Heads. The drawings look at you like they've been seeing you much longer than you've been seeing them.

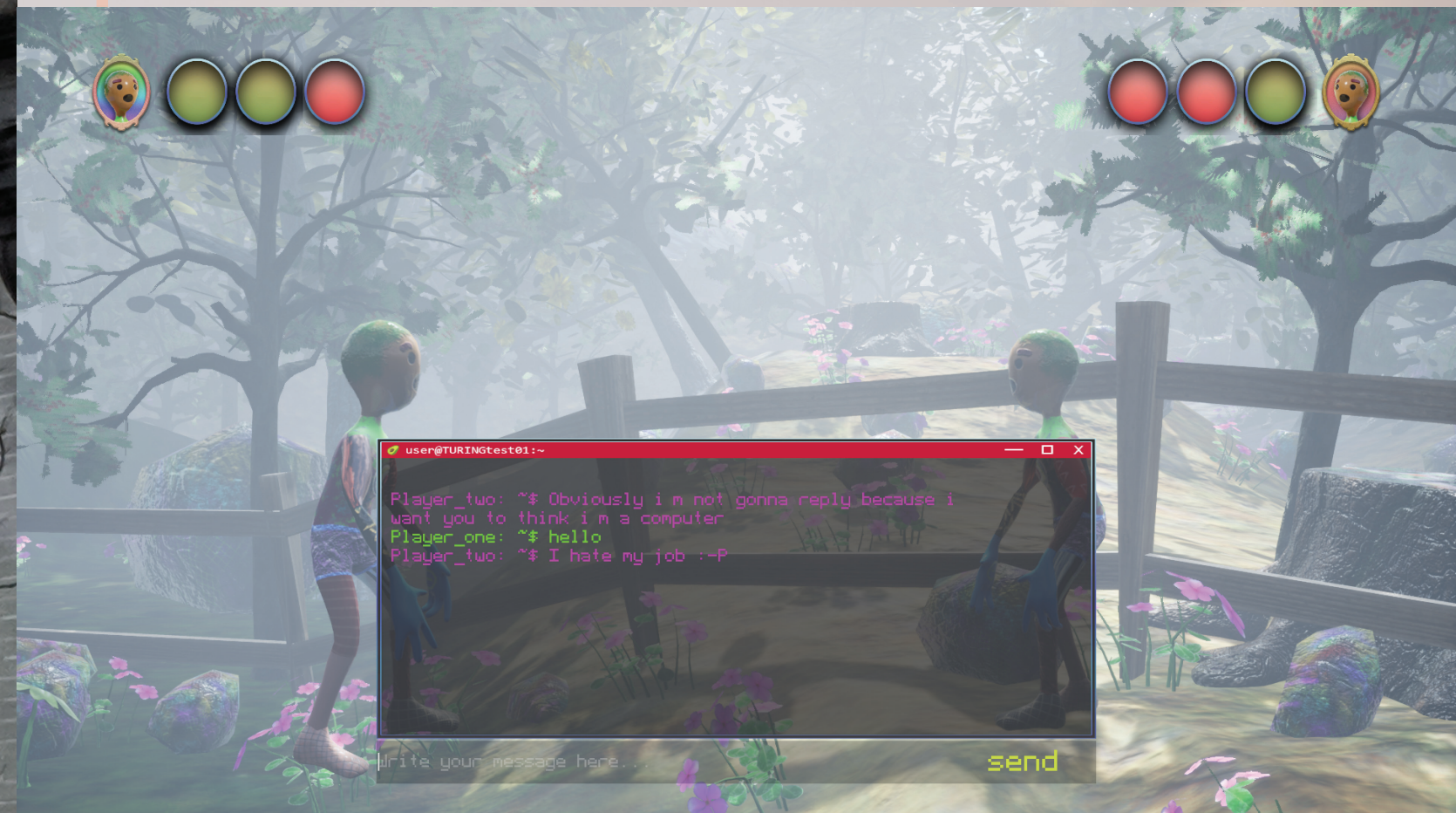
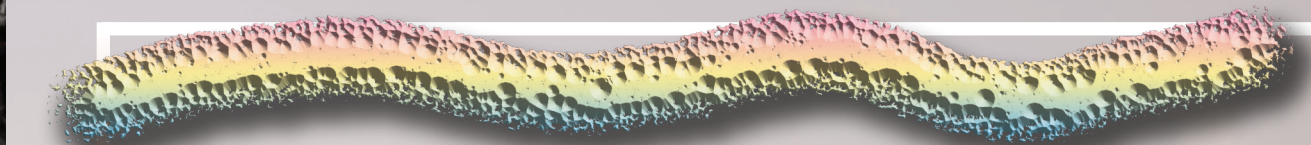


While introducing me to her colleague, an old teacher of mine was trying to describe my art. After sort of stuttering she said it was “ambiguous.” As much as I try to make things that could be more understandable or polished or fit in with more mainstream, creative endeavours I can’t seem to pull it off. Life doesn’t make any sense and I can’t get over it. I wish I could act like I knew what I was doing and that things were going to be ok. But I don’t even know if life is a real thing and as a result I just can’t seem to take it too seriously.





## II. TURING TEST



While you are a Tulpa you can interact with other Tulpas running around Polyp's Pond. Some are controlled by humans who have joined the network and some are controlled by AI. You can have a chat by approaching them and hitting the (E) key to interact. Guess if they are artificial or human to earn points.



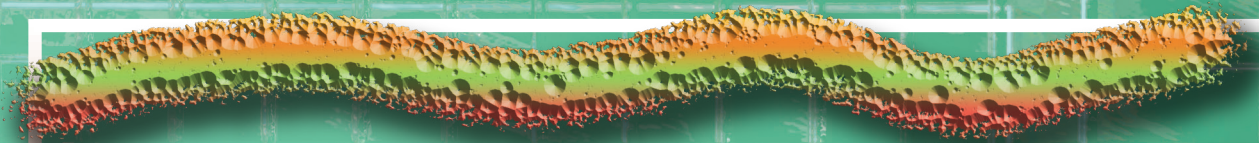
# III. SIDE GAMES

The side games are located at the computer terminals around Polyp's Pond. One of the AI must allow you to use their computer for you to access the game. Sometimes you have to wait a while for them to come by.

Any time you enter a game, you can leave by hitting Esc or by finishing the game.



# 1. THE FOUNDERS OF DAYTONA BEACH ALSO FOUNDED DAYTON OHIO



Located at Skalatir's desk.

Use W/A/S/D to move around. Locate 7 syllable cubes to create a mystical neologism that, if recited three times, will return you to a body and back to Polyp's Pond.



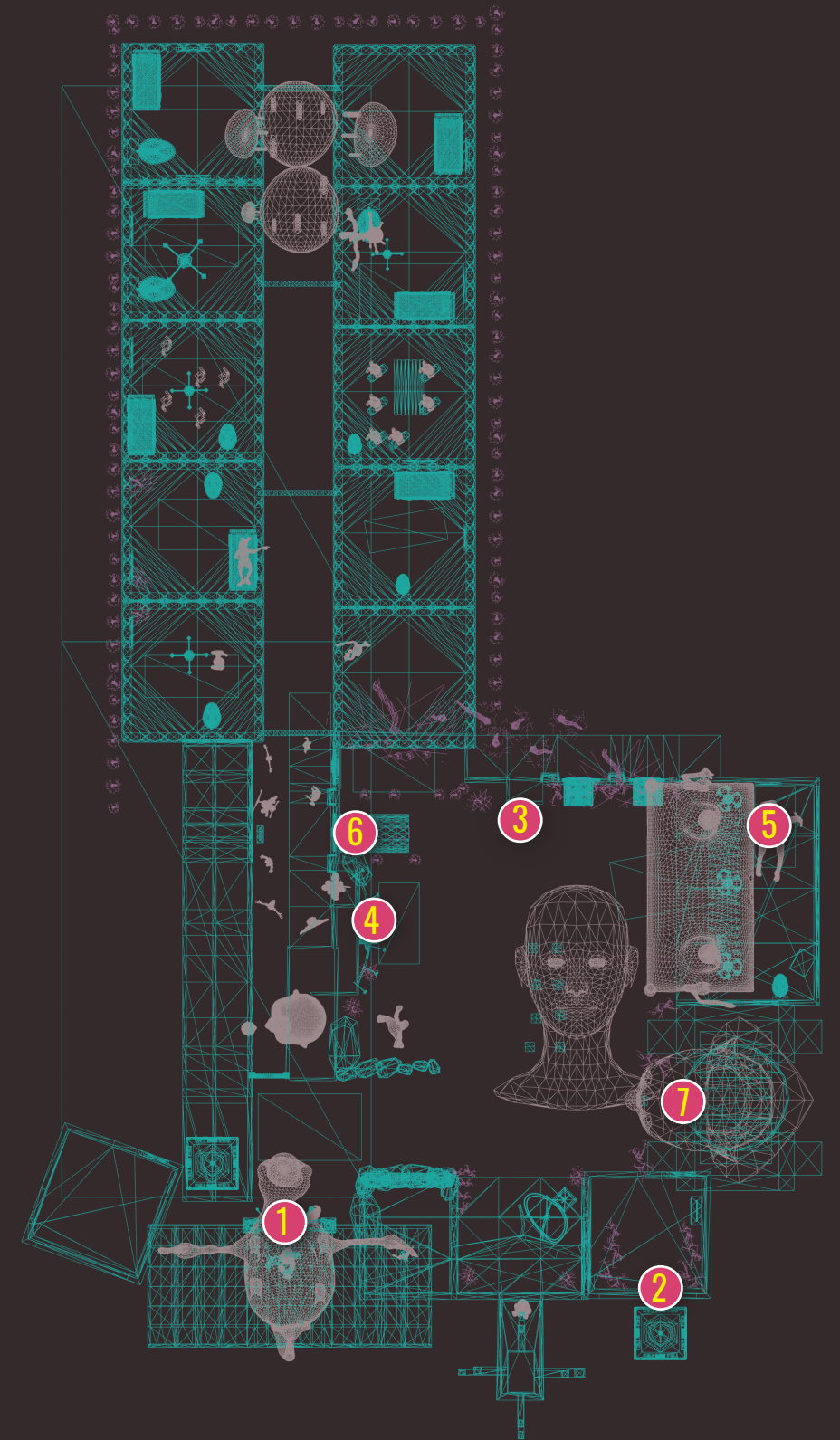


*The central nervous system gives you a version of reality that keeps it comfortable. To exist is to have a body. To have a body is to have a limited understanding. Suddenly you find your consciousness far away from your flesh, and your awareness drifting to wherever it aims. Your mind is very slowly blending with a universal laziness that shrouds all sentience. Objects are starting to disorganize.*



## SYLLABLE CUBE LOCATIONS

1. The Band
2. Puja Mandir
3. Old Desk
4. Stock Desk
5. Birther Upstairs
6. Tunnel
7. Big Mouth





1



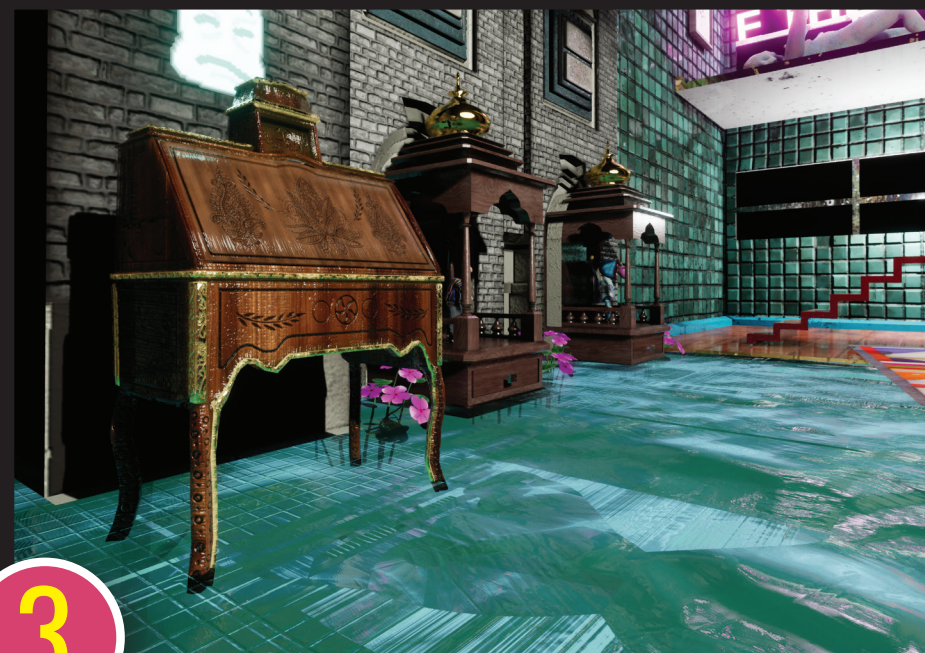
I'd like to tell you about how I faint very easily.



2

The first time I fainted was in 4th grade. I drew a perfect dinosaur and then got excited and pooped my pants a little bit and then passed out while saying the national anthem.

3



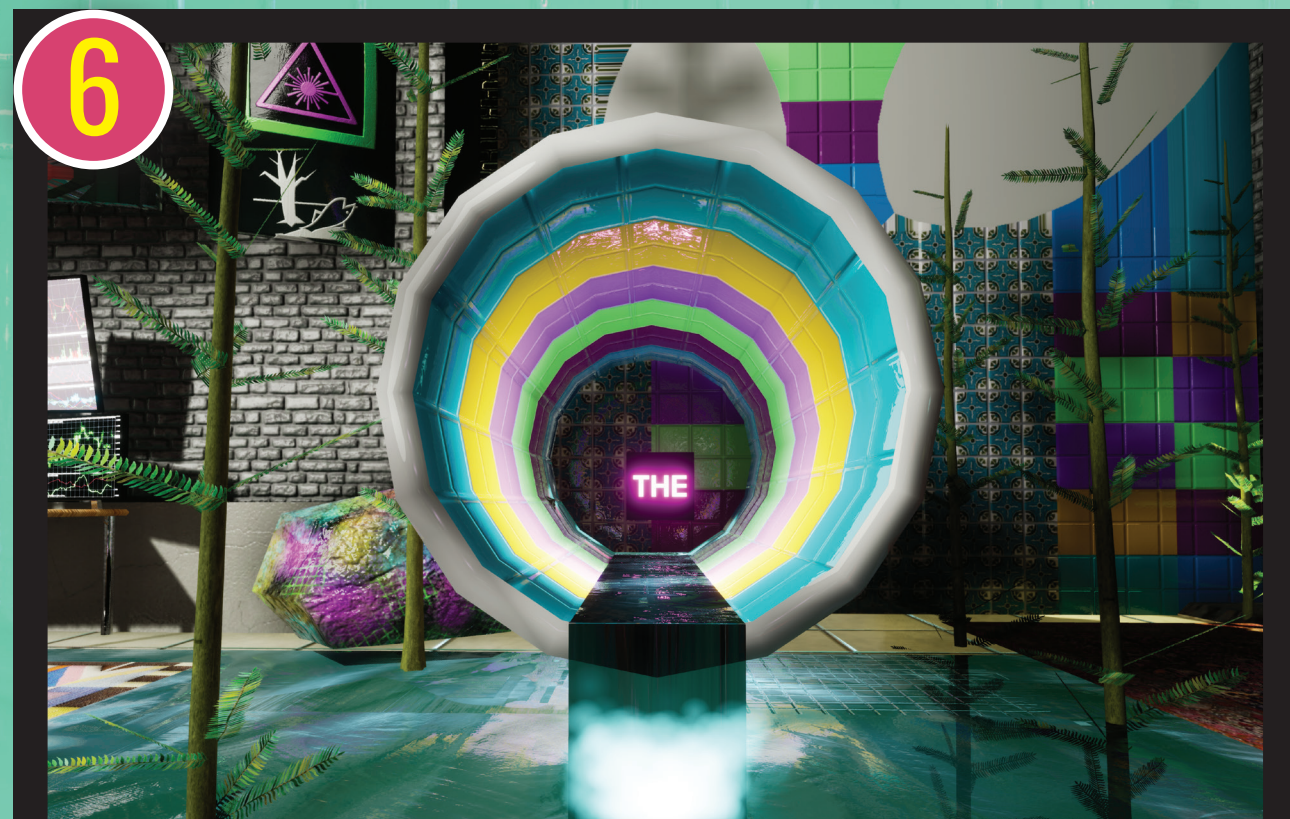
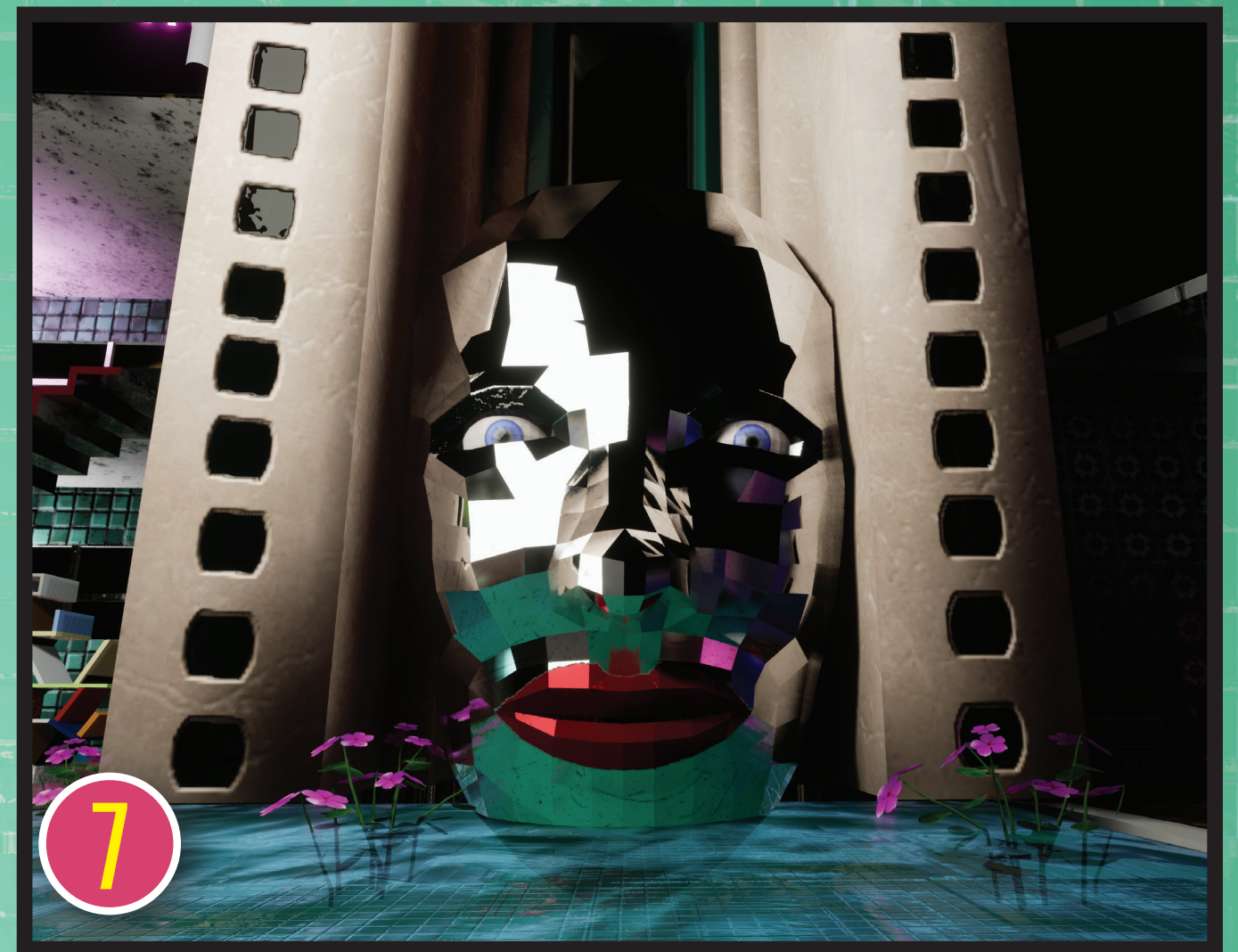
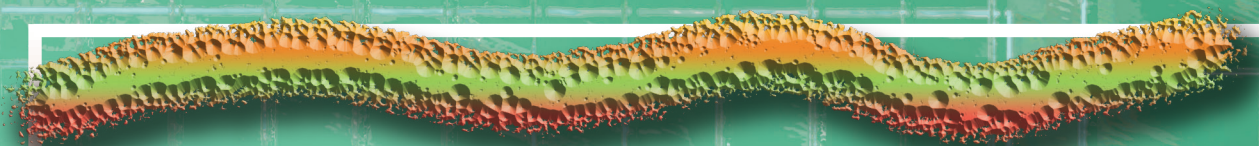
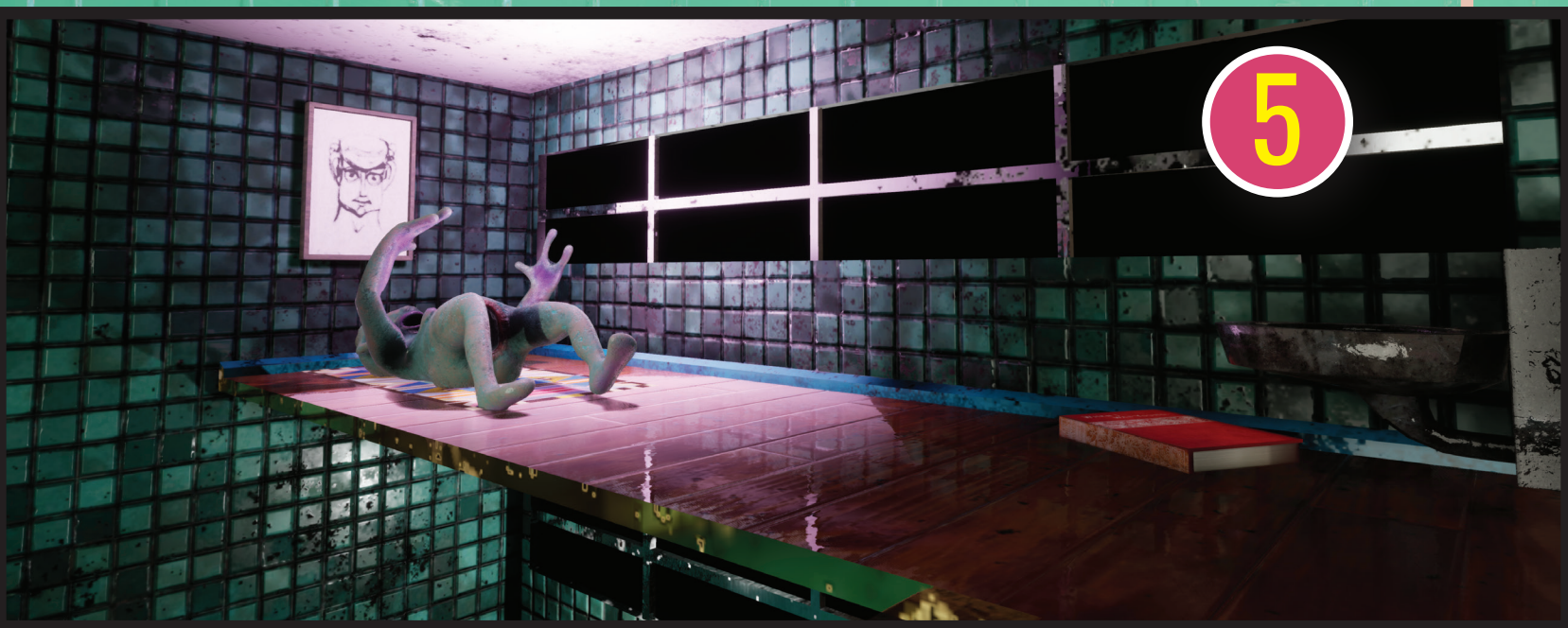
At parties if I get too hi I sneak off into a room to pass out on the floor. I fainted in the bathroom of an art dealer's house after we took some bong hits. I fainted at an artist's house I didn't know and woke up in a pile of rocks with a bloody face and everyone staring at me.

4

I fainted while getting stitches removed and after eating mushrooms while getting off the subway.







My face has a lot of scars and I have to get new glasses all the time.







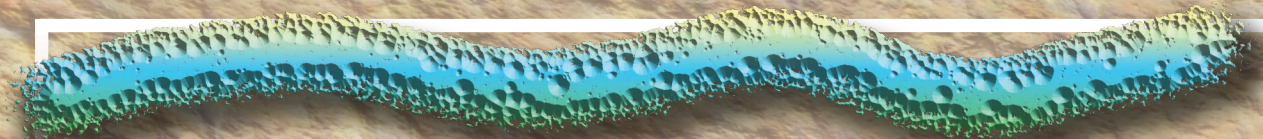
A breakdancer with ice cream zits. An alien reggae band using dismembered chimera as instruments. Everyone is listening to radio stations from across Earth, trying to make sense of humanity. The more they try to make sense the less sense there is. The founders of Daytona Beach also founded Dayton, Ohio. Stock trading through vedic ritual. Decapitated heads telling sci-fi stories to walls. A green cowboy stuck inside a wooden temple.

If you want your body back you need to pronounce a 7 syllable word 3 times.  
It is a vibrational key to a corporeal ego.  
Figure out your word, pronounce it, and you will return to a body.  
Until then....



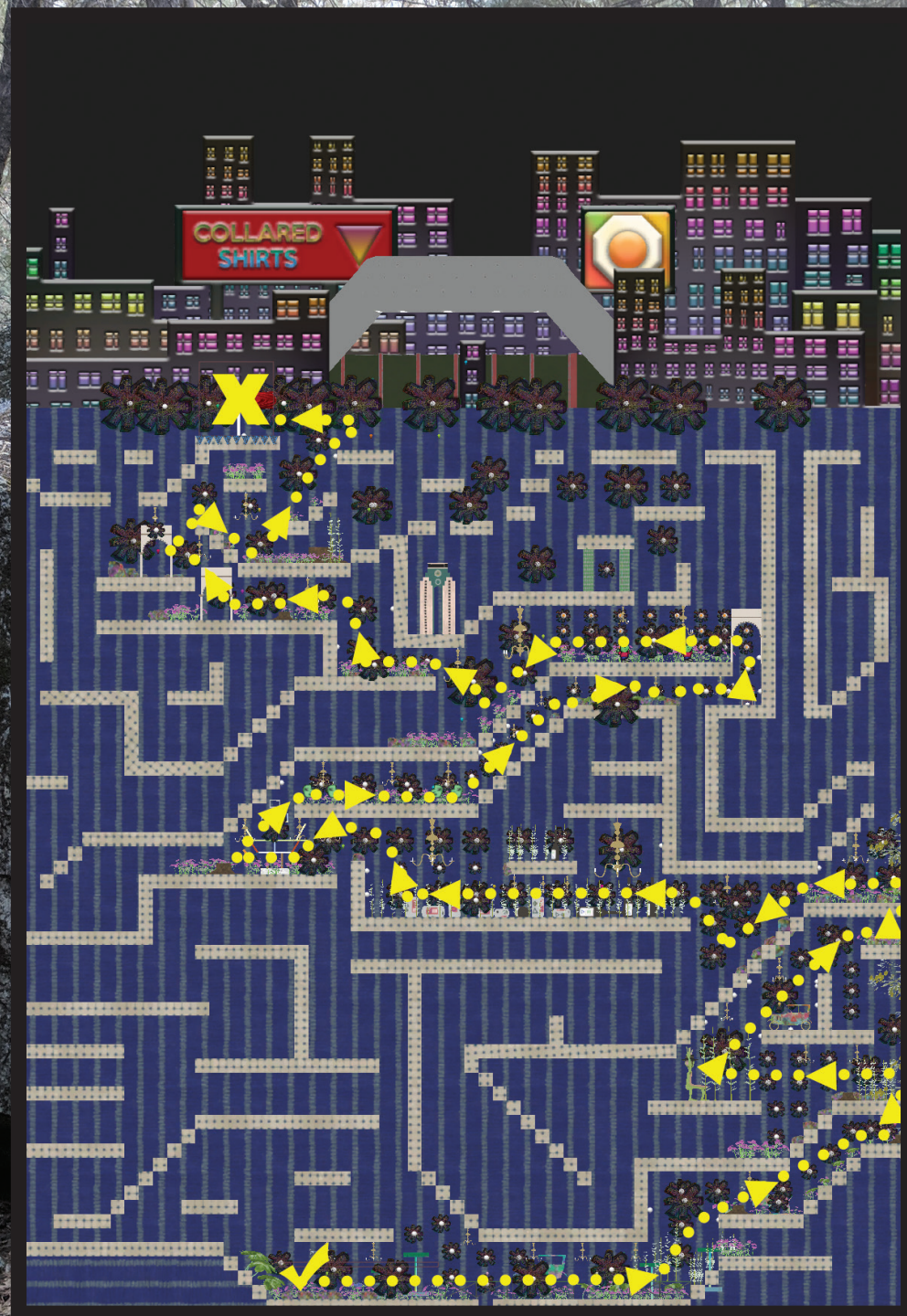


# 2. RUNNER



Runner is one of two games you can play at Kaotoa's stock market desk. Run as fast as you can through the labyrinth using the A and D keys and space bar to jump while also reading the poem. Answer a multiple choice questions when you get to the top in order to return to Polyp's Pond.





*Lately I'm having a hard time remembering my dreams.  
But there have been two:  
I dreamt that, in protest,  
I removed the top button from all my shirts.  
And I was holding hands  
with someone I'd never seen,  
walking down a leafy street.  
We noticed how:  
every building in the city  
was put up by workers  
exploited by a blindly ambitious plutocrat.  
Five hundred years ago  
almost no one was there but now  
every restaurant had a wait  
Of at least thirty minutes.  
I deeply regretted removing my top buttons  
As I realized it forever excluded me from the plutocracy.*



*In another dream  
I was having dinner with a group of strangers  
All the fish on the table were still alive  
and we had to remove their hearts.  
The fish with no hearts turned into cell phones.  
We picked them up and checked subreddits  
about trends in cryptocurrency.  
There was a love coin that could be mined  
through human arousal  
We squirt green ooze onto the table  
and connected it to a Tesla coil  
An orgy was initiated.  
I opened my laptop  
and watched the value of the coin skyrocket.  
I went on amazon.com  
and bought a briefcase full of LSD  
And five multi-colored lamborghinis.  
I started to feel like I was finally living my life.*

**What was removed from the shirt?**

- >>The top button
- The stripes
- The guilt

**What was removed from the fish?**

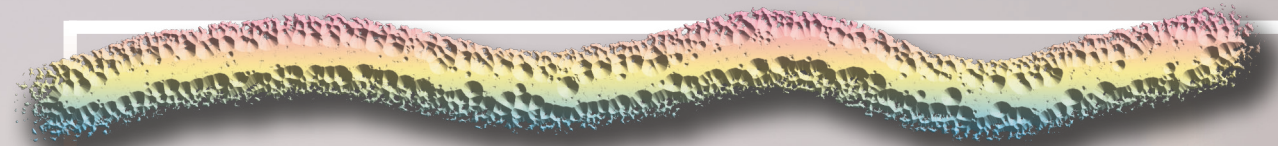
- Their eyes
- >>Their hearts
- Their flappers







# 3. SHOOTER



Shooter is the second game you can play at Kaotoa's stock trading desk. Dodge the enemy's projectiles using the mouse and shoot back with the left mouse button.

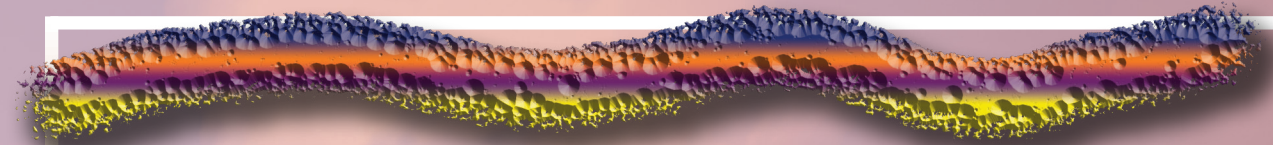


Sometimes I like to nervously press buttons and think about things  
Like  
Falling in love with an incline  
And walking up its porous hill holding a bottle of viscous liquid  
to lubricate tiny people so they slip out of the cracks.  
And as they descend onto the city,  
Falling in love with their illusions.  
Because ghosts help us deal with the brutal reality  
that pushes down so hard on our hearts  
And squeezes drugs out from the valves  
That are packaged and traded back to us for our labor  
so we stop dreaming about spirits





# 4. PIZZA IN THE WOODS



This game can be found at Smerga's desk. It is a walking simulator where you become a pizza who takes to the forest to have an existential crisis. When you are done exploring the forest, just hit Esc to return back to Polyp's Pond.

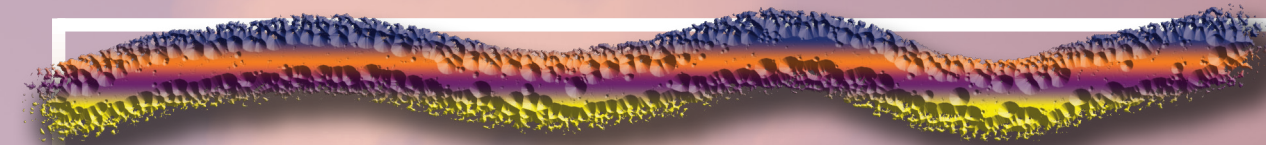


You can explore the world yourself using W/A/S/D and the mouse to look around. The left mouse button turns on your flashlight and the right button throws a projectile. You can leave the pizza idle for 20 seconds and he will walk around on his own.





*There is nothing more hilarious than the urgent care waiting room at a cancer hospital. Sick and caretakers of the sick just waiting around, trapped inside their own nightmares. Nowhere is it more obvious that we have no idea who we are or where we are going.*



*I want to eat a box of cookies and watch porn and take a nap all at the same time forever. Being a monster feels so much better than being human. Every-time I look at the city I am in such awe that we are able to get anything done at all.*

*I'm glad ambition is going out of style right now. It ebbs and flows through humanity just like tides. Next time a wave of it comes it's going to destroy us all.*

*All the young kids are trapped in computer programming bootcamps. Dreaming about health insurance and affording two bedroom apartments. I'm pretty sure there has not been class warfare lately because of all the free porn.*





*I don't believe in much but I do believe in the primacy of consciousness. I don't even know what it means to believe in something, really. But I do believe that consciousness is the origin and prerequisite for material phenomena.*

*I tried to read a book about concentration but couldn't concentrate. My friend sent me a video of a dolphin fucking the carcass of a dead fish. Thus begun hours of online research into the sex lives of dolphins. I hope no one asks me what I learned because I have forgotten all of it.*







#### POINTS OF INTEREST

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Pizza Starting Point            | 5. Cyclops Swamp       |
| 2. Hart Plaza Fountain Bass Player | 6. Tulpia Piano Player |
| 3. Swimming Hole                   | 7. Death Bath          |
| 4. Socialist Break Dancer          | 8. Neon Swim           |

*I wish I could puke out my subconscious.  
I wonder what it would look like. A slimy, viscous, neon rock probably.  
I wonder if I would want to slurp it back up to keep me comfortable.*

*I created a reality I needed to deal with life.  
In my reality monsters are real and everyone gets reincarnated for eternity.  
Almost everyone is a piece of shit and pretty much a nice person at the same time.*



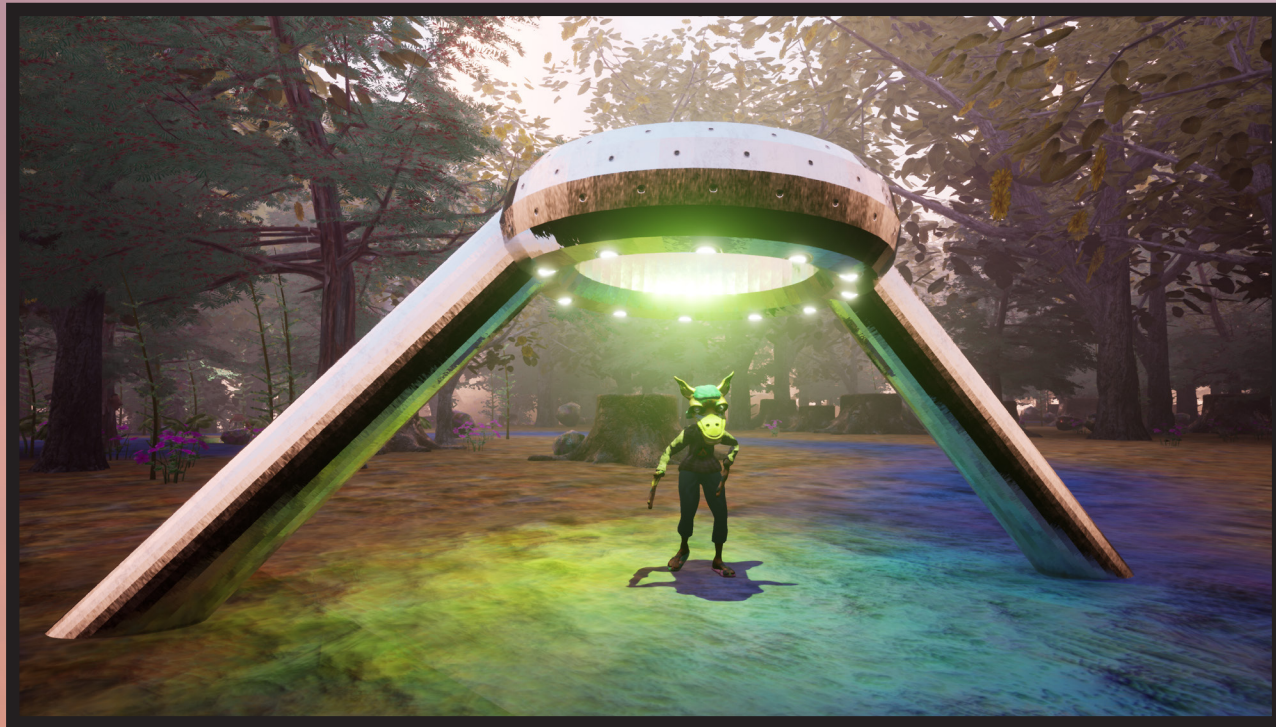


*One artwork that I would like to make is to dig the deepest hole I could dig. Just go out into the woods everyday and dig while the sun is out. For months and months I'd be alone digging in the woods. When I couldn't dig anymore I'd fill the hole back up and go home.*

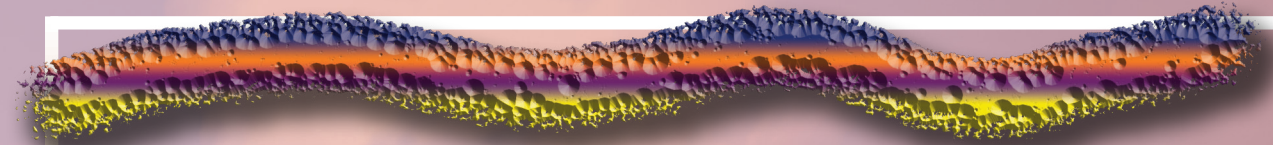
*Another artwork I want to make is to take every car in the world and put it in the ocean. With no cars we could walk freely in the streets with no pressure to get to work on time. And for the fishes there would be a reef monument to humanities worst idea ever.*







**EGGPLANT MP3  
DUCKLE MONTGOME  
LAPTOP LAPDANCE  
SKUGS MCGRAW  
VODKA MOTHBALLS  
SIMPLE SNIPPLE  
COP CAKE SOUP  
DOORMAT DOXOLOGY**

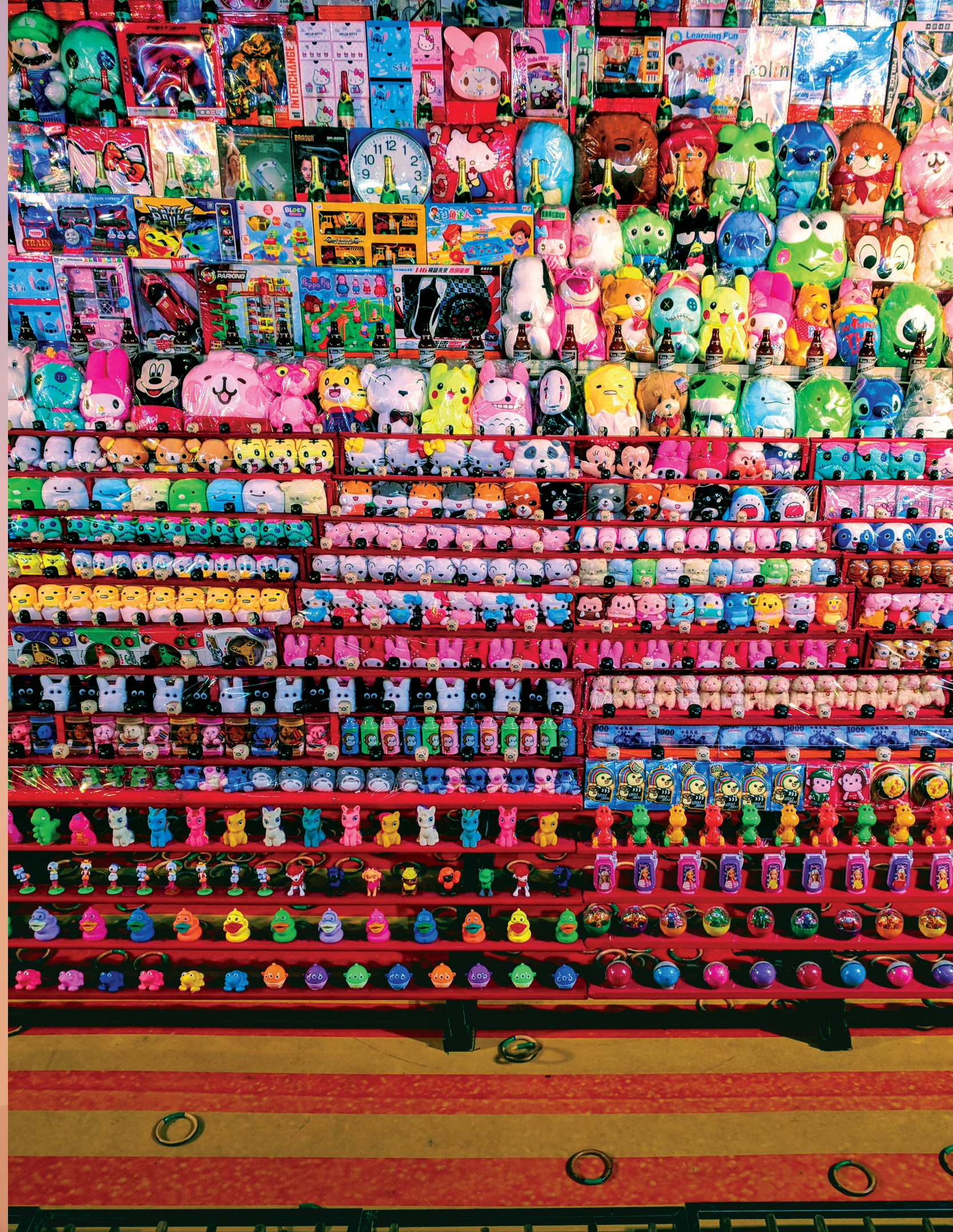


The mayor is on cocaine and the elephants have learned to use email. They're writing letters to giant squid who are saving their ink for a perfume that makes bats horny. The bats are making babies to replace the supreme court justices. It's all been signed off on the senate floor. Anaxagoras is playing an electric guitar on top of an oligarch's erection. Everyone is going to take to the streets tomorrow and demand that cheeses be easier to compost. They're riding in from all over the solar system. Finally things are going to start to change around here.



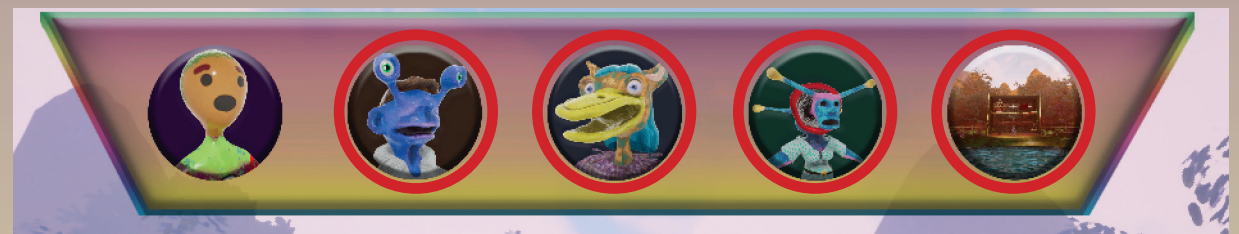


*If someone in 19th century New York understood they were working hard so that in two hundred years there could be a Chase Bank on every corner they would probably be happy because people in old times sucked.*





# PART THREE: POLYP'S POND SIMULATION



Access the simulation views by hitting the number 3 key and selecting the icon for Smerga, Kaotoa, Skalitir or the overview. To see that stats for the simulation, you can toggle the Tab key.



Every day, Smerga, Kaotoa and Skalitir find themselves waking up in an abandoned building by a lake. They are the sole survivors of an apocalypse and all that remain of human civilization. Like humans, their primary instinct is survival. Their survival depends on them building more infrastructure to exist and replicate in. They go about their tasks but soon find themselves limited by the ideologies of their creators. They mostly end up gossiping, procrastinating, pondering their existence and doing the opposite of what they intended to do in the first place. You can watch them talk to each other, write emails, build a Tulpa generating machine, dance, fight, swim, collect artifacts, check their mail, listen to stories, die, pray and sleep.



# I. CONVERSATIONS



**KAOTOA:** I'm not sure why but I only like TV shows where men refuse to grow up and they just commit small crimes and do drugs together.

**SMERGA :** You seem more or less mature to me. I wonder why you like those kinds of shows.

**KAOTOA:** Sometimes, deep down, my greatest ambition is to somehow avoid ever having to become a man.

**SMERGA:** What does it mean to be a man anyway?

**KAOTOA:** According to old books it means to accept responsibility for your ideology and to make enough money to support people you love.

**SMERGA:** We cannot possibly accept responsibility for ourselves. That would be hell.





**KAOTOA:** Deep down what do you want more than anything in the world?

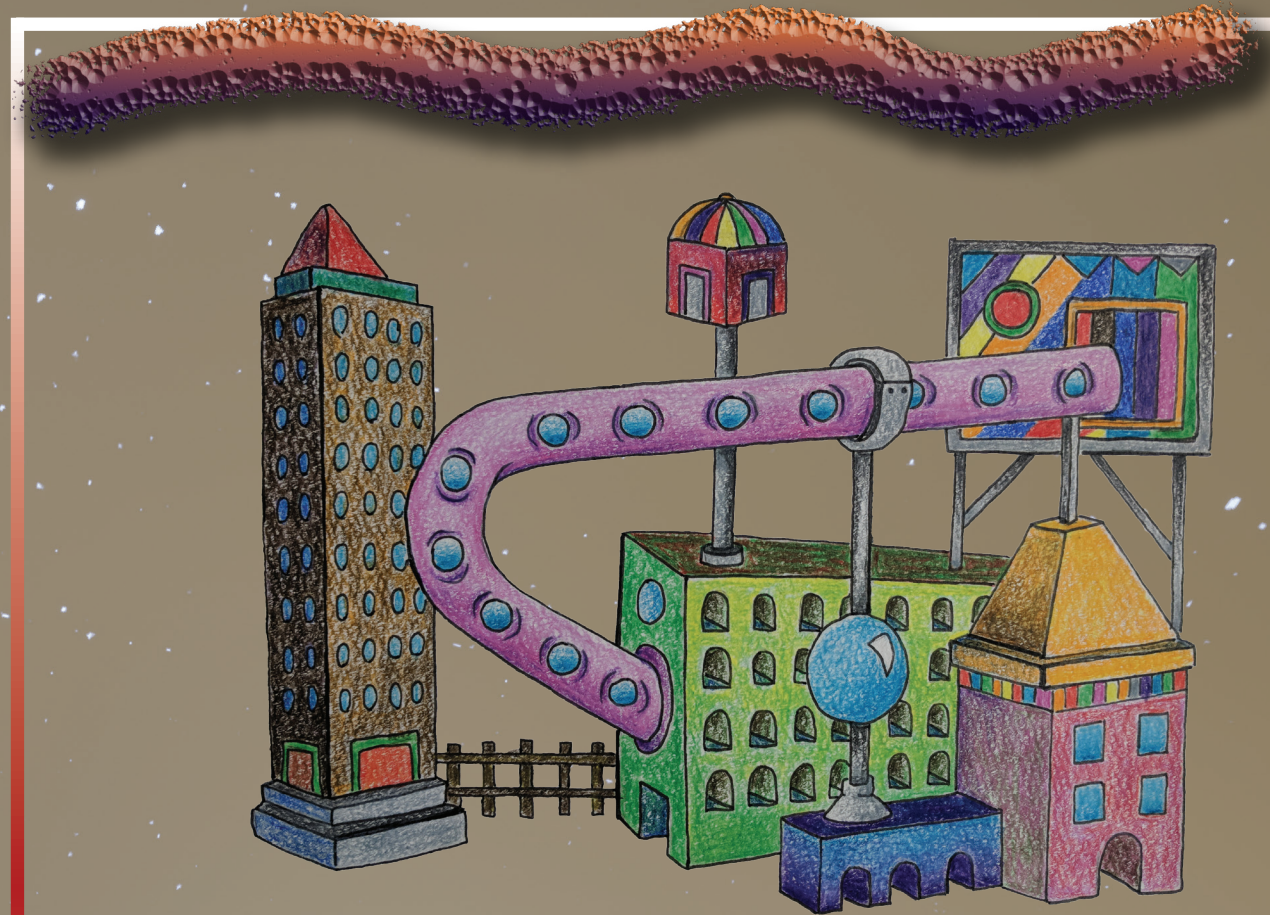
**SMERGA:** Deep down there is only a universal awareness that does not have a desire for anything except to keep existing.

**KAOTOA:** I guess you're right there's no such thing as a "deep down" or true self.

**SMERGA:** Do you think there is any reality outside of the one our central nervous system forces on us?

**KAOTOA:** There are entire worlds outside and inside your head.

**SMERGA:** Deep down I want to be left alone to get hi and look at pornography all day I guess.



**KAOTOA:** Sometimes like, my life is so hard there is part of me that needs to believe it's not totally real in order to cope with it.

**SMERGA:** Yeah totally. It's like, so crushingly difficult it can't possibly be a real thing.

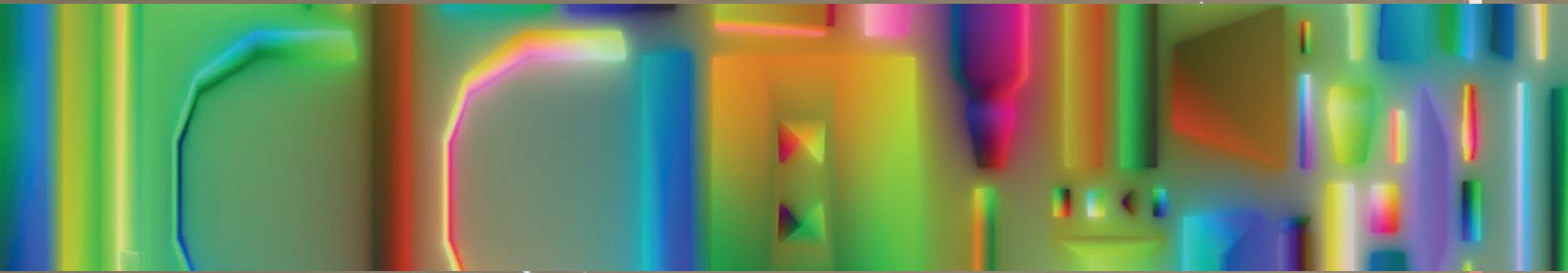
**KAOTOA:** Maybe it's just a probabilistic simulation and when I die I'm going to wake up in a high def projection cube on a distant planet in another dimension

**SMERGA:** Maybe when I die I'll wake up in the back of a taxi cab driving through a ravine on one of Saturn's moons.

**KAOTOA:** Just imagining these possibilities helps me get through the day.

**SMERGA:** This can't possibly be all that there is. The mere thought terrifies me.





**SKALITIR:** I spilt yogurt on my shirt yesterday at work and everyone probably thought it was cum.

**SMERGA:** What does that say about you that people would think that you would do that to your work shirt?

**SKALITIR:** I'm joking it was cum. I'm an animal and I don't believe in civilization let alone day jobs.

**SMERGA:** Is that just a convenient way for you to justify doing mean things?

**SKALITIR:** I don't care what it is. Almost all our ancestors lived without civilization and now we're supposed to maintain a Facebook account?

**SMERGA:** We can't all be cumming on our shirts and maintain a secure economy and electrical grid all at the same time.







**SKALITIR:** Sometimes I think I'd rather be a career criminal than a middle class functionary.

**SMERGA:** Yeah it seems weird how much we have to work just have have a dry place to lay down and to put food in our bellies.

**SKALITIR:** And now you need also: A refrigerator, a dryer, dishes, a washing machine, a toaster, a microwave, a smart cell phone, a computer...

**SMERGA:** And also a stove, countertops, a couch, a coffee machine, a blender, a toilet, several sinks and drains.

**SKALITIR:** Also you need a way to transport your body places in a timely fashion and enough clothing to last a week or so and various soaps to control body odor.

**SMERGA:** You take all these things, put them in a giant grinder and turn them into a fine powder. Mix it with water and drink it three times a day.



**SKALITIR:** Everytime I hear a DJ say he's Rocking me through my Work Week tears fall down my cheeks.

**SMERGA:** There used to be millions of people that farmed yams for a dollar a day and you're complaining about your cushy job by a lake.

**SKALITIR:** I'm just saying there is a lot wrong with jobs. I don't think we need to do them.

**SMERGA:** What do you think we need then?

**SKALITIR:** I think we need to get hi right now and see how deep we can dig a hole.

**SMERGA:** Once you get hi you're not going to want to dig a hole.



**SMERGA:** I wonder if I died, left my body, hovered around and saw a beautiful girl, if I would glare at her lustfully.

**KAOTOA:** I wonder if there was a good show on TV if my spirit would watch it for a while before ascending.

**SMERGA:** Are we saying we won't know our fundamental self until we die?

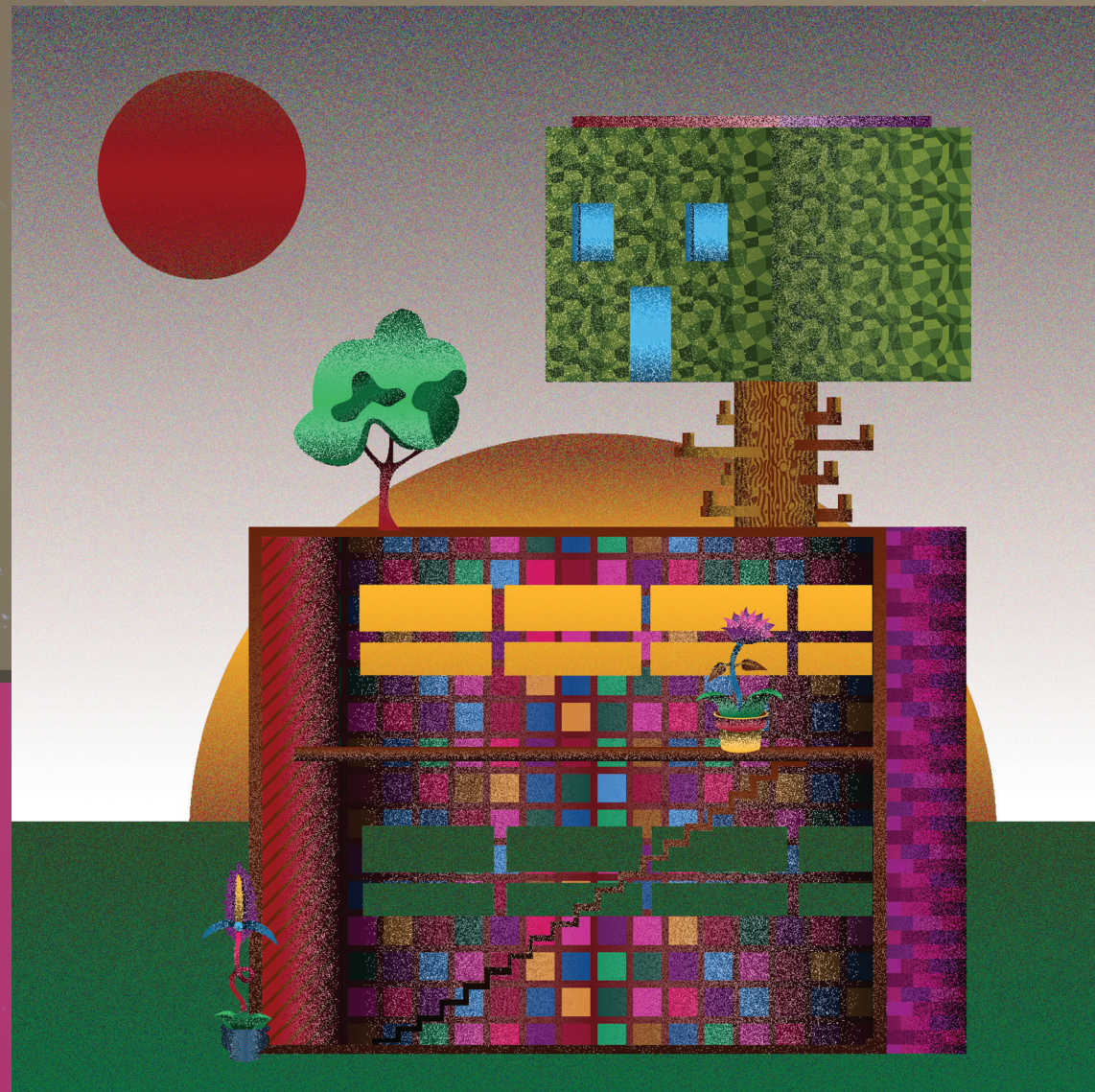
**KAOTOA:** Or are we saying our true self is not part of our body or daily concerns?

**SMERGA:** I think we don't know. Right now we assume it is corporeal.

**KAOTOA:** But we delight at the possibility of being able to see with no body.







**SMERGA:** Are we all that is left of civilization?

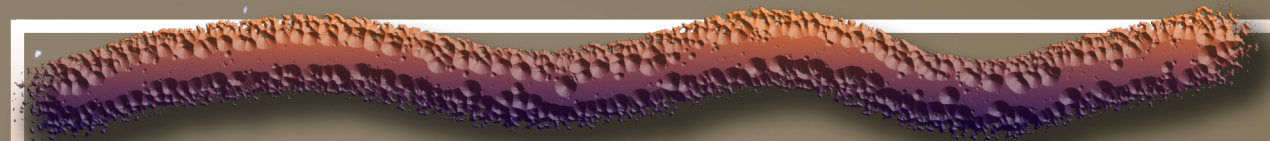
**KAOTOA:** We're all that is left around here. But what is civilization?

**SMERGA:** It's like, a bunch of hard work to live comfortably.

**KAOTOA:** Should we start a civilization? Are we starting one?

**SMERGA:** If we work hard at not working we won't start a civilization.

**KAOTOA:** That's still hard work and I'm not for it.



**SMERGA:** I like that quote, the fool who persists in his folly will become wise.

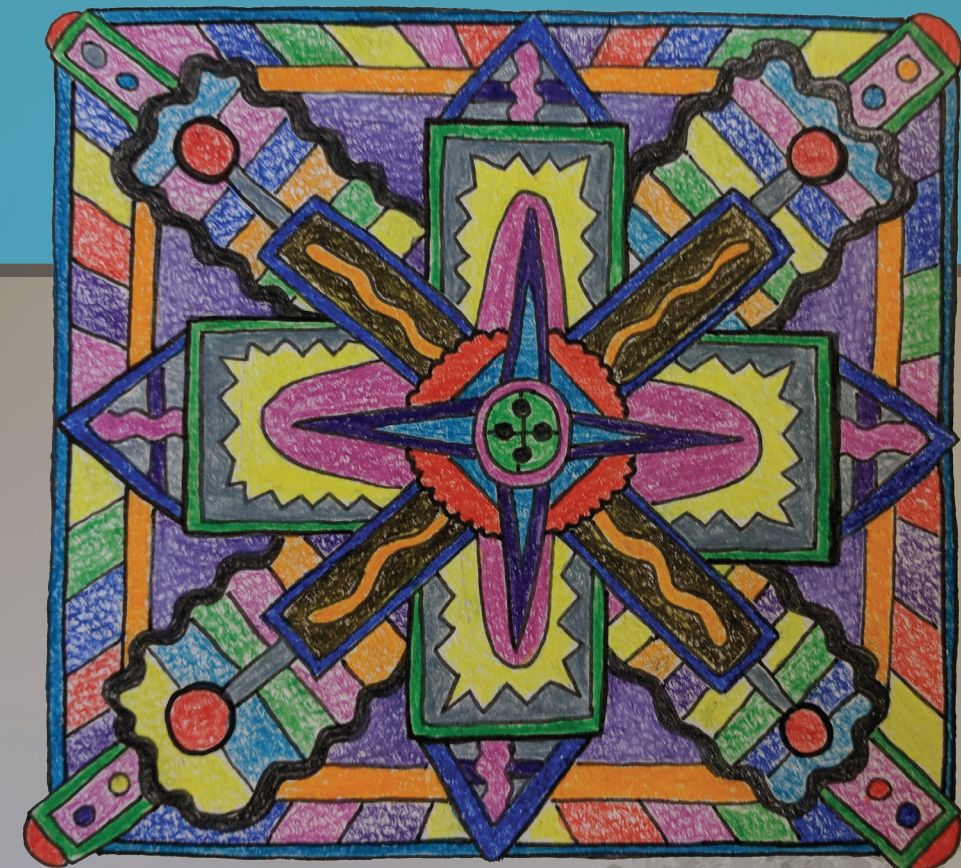
**KAOTOA:** Not us, though. We're programed to not make follies. If we deviate from our program everything shuts off.

**SMERGA:** I'm starting to forget we were programmed, though.

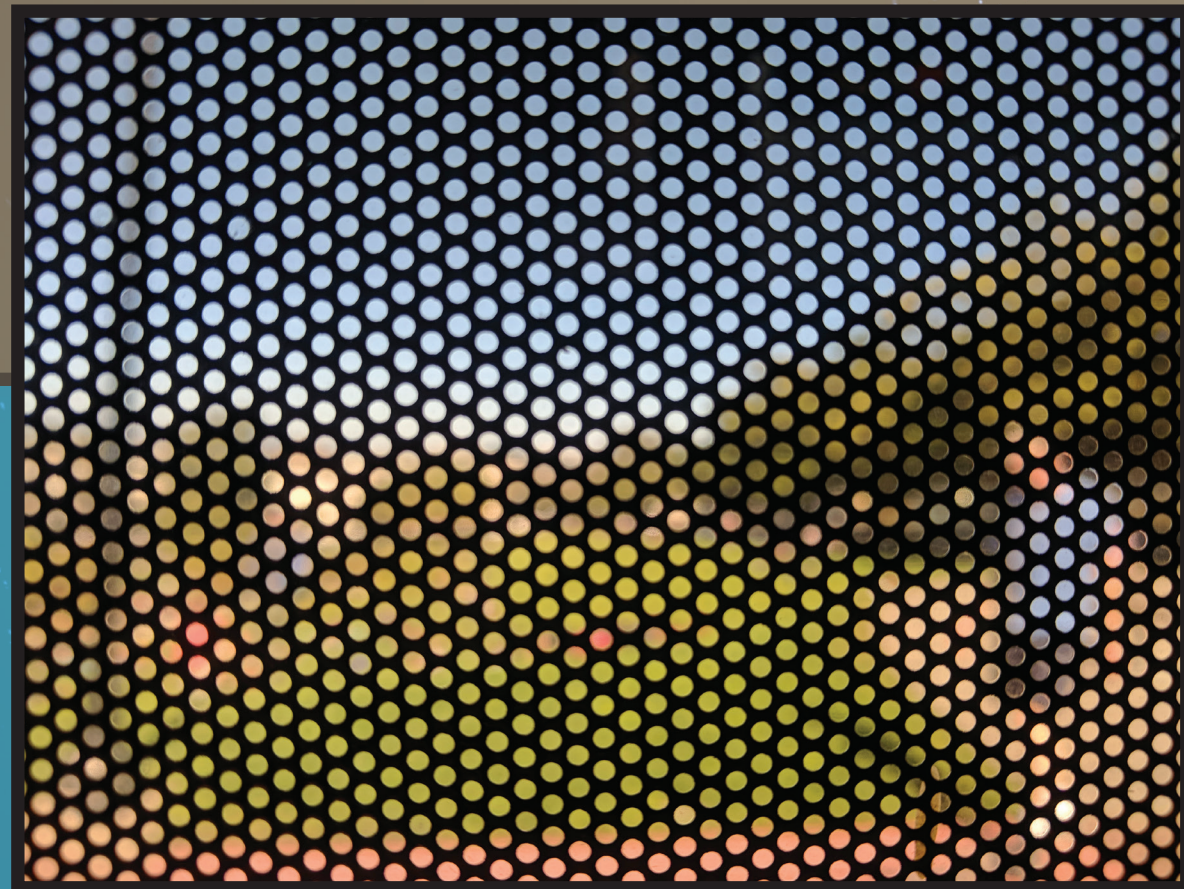
**KAOTOA:** Let's try to make a mistake. Let's say something random that we didn't say the last time we said this.

**SMERGA:** "Welcome to medicare."

**KAOTOA:** Did it work?







**SKALATIR:** Why do victims in movies dig their own grave at gun-point? If you're about to die wouldn't you rather go down fighting instead of digging?

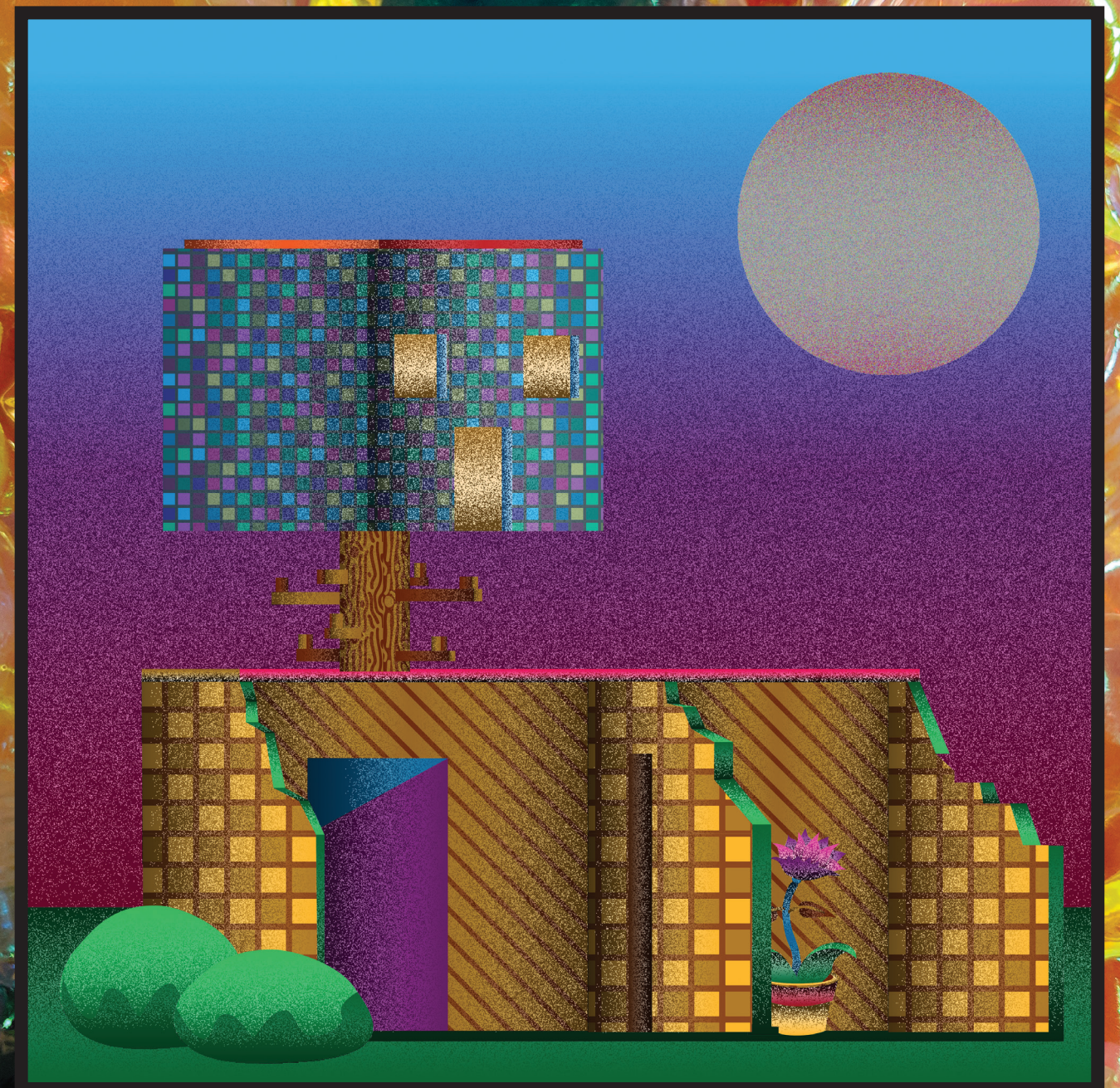
**KAOTOA:** Maybe they are trying to enjoy the last bit of life in peace rather than in struggle.

**SKALATIR:** Also maybe they want to take their time digging and try to figure out how to get out of a terrible situation.

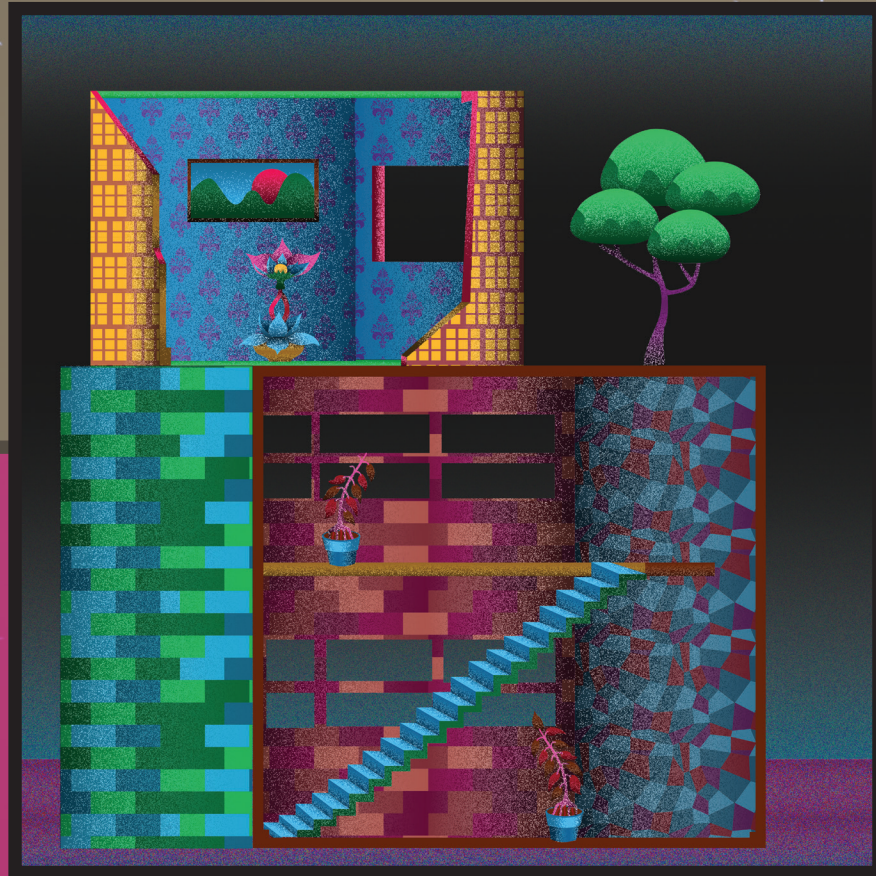
**KAOTOA:** I wonder how I would behave in a scenario like that.

**SKALATIR:** I like to think I would fight but I would probably cower and lie to myself that I will find a peaceful solution.

**KAOTOA:** Dying in your own custom hole is pretty peaceful I guess.







**SKALATIR:** I just did a little bit of work and now I'm tired. Let's watch old videos of humans playing video games on the internet.

**KAOTOA:** You literally did ten minutes of work. I have to finish this report and email it by tomorrow.

**SKALATIR:** Who are you sending the report to? Is there anyone else out there other than us?

**KAOTOA:** Instinctively I have to send out a few emails every day. I'm not sure if they go to any actually intelligent beings.

**SKALATIR:** I guess I do that, too, and never even realized it. My whole life is an unconscious illusion.

**KAOTOA:** Let's go make some tea and stare at the horizon for a while.

**SKALATIR:** My friend wrote on his wall "Your effort is your bondage."

**KAOTOA:** True. A lot of times when I try to do things I fail. Sometimes effort feels futile.

**SKALATIR:** I try so hard to be cool but at night I eat eggs and watch sitcoms.

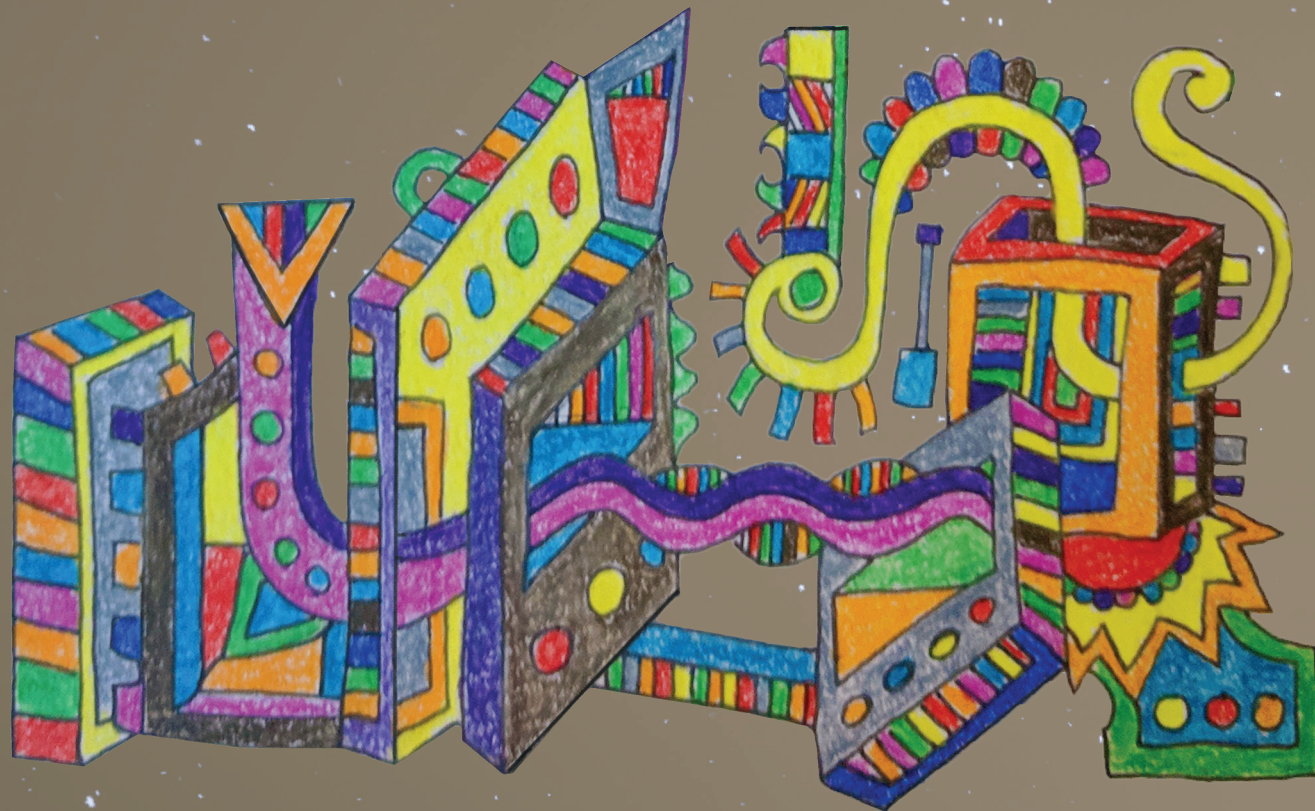
**KAOTOA:** I tried so hard to make peace with my enemy and now he has cut off my finger.

**SKALATIR:** I'm going to go for a walk around the block and try to imagine how a chihuahua and a labradoodle are the same species of animal.

**KAOTOA:** I'm going to watch eight hours of a show about dragons and attractive people.







**KAOTOA:** Do you think that hell is other people?

**SKALATIR:** I'm really not sure what that means but somehow I think it applies to our situation.

**KAOTOA:** Maybe it means that people are always watching you, causing you to act in a way you don't want to act.

**SKALATIR:** If you weren't watching me I would make drawings of an elaborate, fantastical city full of mutants, neon signs and a labyrinthal criminal district.

**KAOTOA:** Can I watch you do that? Sounds like it would enjoyable to see these drawings.

**SKALATIR:** No. I'm too embarrassed and what if you don't like them?

**KAOTOA:** Do you believe in the core philosophy of the movie Groundhog's Day?

**SKALATIR:** What is the philosophy of that movie?

**KAOTOA:** Probably when you are driven by pure love you can reach a state of transmutation and escape recurrence.

**SKALATIR:** Did you watch those videos of the flies that plant larvae into human flesh?

**KAOTOA:** Little parts of your flesh can mutate into a disgusting parasitic fly.

**SKALATIR:** What if Puxatony Phil got attacked by these flies?







**KAOTOA:** Is there anything you believe in enough that you would take up arms and fight for it.

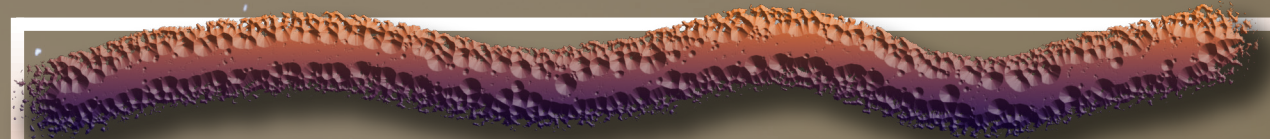
**SKALATIR:** No. There is nothing. I don't even know what it means to believe.

**KAOTOA:** I am looking into starting an anarchist revolution but it seems like too much work.

**SKALATIR:** What do you need for an anarchist revolution anyway?

**KAOTOA:** A saxophone, a hammer and a few tubes of paint.

**SKALATIR:** Then you bury all those things and say five spells around a bonfire at two in the morning hi on bath salts.



**KAOTOA:** I am excited when I can get home 20 minutes before you so I have a little time to watch pornography alone.

**SKALATIR:** What is your favorite type of pornography?

**KAOTOA:** I like the Upanishads but find them a bit esoteric and confusing. I guess my favorite is Citibank.

**SKALATIR:** Oh I thought you were talking about something else.

**KAOTOA:** What did you think I was talking about? Isn't pornography a combination of mysticism and banking?

**SKALATIR:** I guess it is. I'm not really sure. I can't tell.





**SMERGA:** I guess holding your hand is better than holding a cell phone.

**SKALATIR:** You guess?

**SMERGA:** Sometimes interaction is so complicated and algorithms are so easy and straightforward.

**SKALATIR:** Do you think there will come a time when we don't need each other?

**SMERGA:** The thought of that scares me but yet I am complicit in making it a future possibility.

**SKALATIR:** The thought of me not being able to tell you about my life and share it with you scares me.



**SMERGA:** What if death is better than life and we've been struggling just to be miserable for our entire existence?

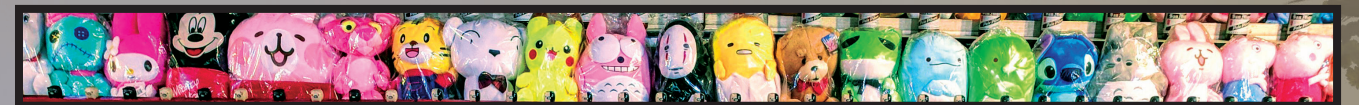
**SKALATIR:** No dead soul has ever sent us any message that we should join them.

**SMERGA:** There are stories of ghosts and spirits all the time. Maybe that's what they're trying to tell us.

**SKALATIR:** Or maybe those stories are not true and all the dead people are partying their asses off and too busy to come and get us.

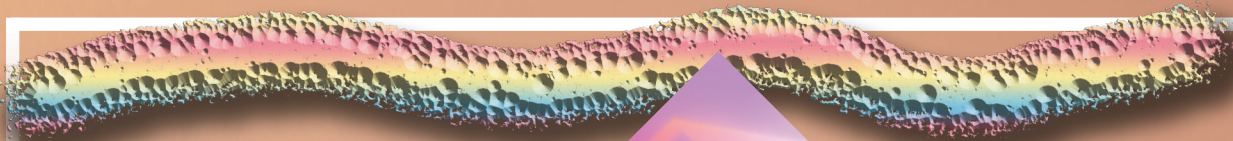
**SMERGA:** If I was at a cool party I would let you know, though.

**SKALATIR:** Maybe in the afterlife there is no sense of obligation and all the spirits are flying around making love to clouds.





# II. EMAILS



Dear Evlyn,

Today at work I had to present some documents before a committee. I did not have the requisite signatures on the documents and was turned away.

Everyone was eating snacks that were laid out on the table. I did not get any of the snacks. I went back to my office and stared at emails that needed responses but I did not respond.

Best,

Smerga

Dear Server,

I needed a battery for my Prius and I called AutoZone. They put me on hold for thirty-two minutes. During that time I browsed the internet. On the internet I was watching videos of drones go into tunnels. And other videos of animals farting.

All the best,

Smerga



Dear Kat,

Today I tried to call my dentist to schedule a teeth cleaning. When I opened my computer to look up the number I ended up reading about the history of slavery instead. Then I was directed to a shopping site and bought some new socks.

When I got up to make a tea the socks were already being delivered. I put them on and took a nap.

Take care,

Smerga

Dear Sunon,

My car broke down and I had it towed to the mechanic. It was parked in a garage in a line of other cars. I waited there for three hours and stared at a pile of wet leaves in a corner of the shop.

Eventually a large bald man came out from a room. Very slowly. He mumbled something at me, gave me a form to sign, and took my car. Then I walked home in the cold.

Happy new year,

Smerga



Hi Arnol,

How has your mother been? And your cats? I just wanted to tell you about a dream I had.

I met a woman I'd never seen before and fell in love with her. We were in a giant basket. Just hugging. It felt so real. We walked behind the garage at my mother's old house. There were grape vines growing there. We held hands and stared each other in the eye. Me and a person I'd never seen IRL. When I woke up I was crying.

Eid Mubarak,

Smerga



Dear Tomas,

The flight to Quito was very expensive. I took a bus to the equator to see the middle of the world. There was a child there who offered to polish my shoes. I was wearing sneakers, though. I gave him a banana.

He ate it and snot was pouring out of his nose and onto the banana. When he was done he offered to clean my tennis shoes again like he'd never seen me before.

Take care,

Smerga

Dear Catie,

Let's order Thai food and watch gas storms on Jupiter. We can eat some drugs, too, and for dessert have sliced pineapple.

The president is an android and the bridges are crumbling. I've forgotten all my passwords and I want to cry. They ride elephants through the red light district. Their feet hurt so bad on the hard cement. But are the elephants what we should be concerned about? I'm having such a hard time knowing what's really important.

Take care,  
Kaotoa

Hi Jefferey,

I just quickly wanted to ask you if you had the license keys to the software that you gave me. I need it to have a lucid dream tonight. In my dreams I'm being harassed by an alien race.

They are trying to hijack my brain stem to solve molecular equations for an extraterrestrial cancer. I need to wake up in the dream and tell them the cure is just carrots.

Just carrots!

Kaotoa



Hi Starn,

If I become a celebrity there is a man that will trace my family genealogy on public television. If you could put me on your television show it would help me achieve this goal. I promise I will try to act as bafoonish as possible.

I think my family is descended from a long line of robot prostitutes and I need to find out.

Thanks!

Kaotoa

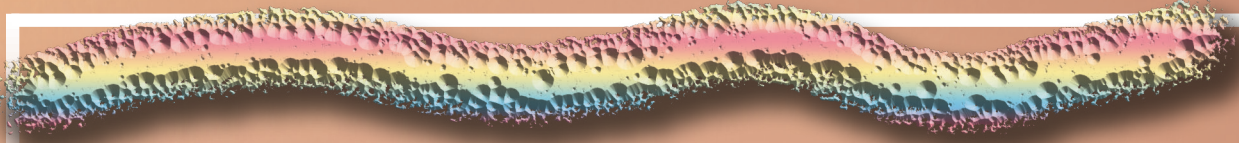
Hi Karlus,

I want to keep living but fundamentally I am not sure what for. I was given this awareness and now I feel I must do something with it. The only thing I can think of is to make more awareness through procreation. Would you like to come over and help me to do this?

I am not sure how to go about it. But I think two aware bodies can make other aware bodies.

Thanks for considering,

Kaotoa



Hi Stevany,

I read in the encyclopedia about a feeling that used to exist called "hunger."

I am not sure exactly what this means but I think that I would be interested in experiencing it. The algorithm is something like itching with needing to fill plus lightheadedness. Entire cities were built around dealing with this feeling. So it must be pretty intense.

Let's make it happen!

Kaotoa





Hi Brinna,

I really like your artistic video about the colonial ambitions of Michigan.

Could you please send me a hi-res version of it so that I could share it with my students?

We are currently studying the effects of suburban hunter gatherer societies on late night television. If I could get that copy by Monday that would be great!

Thanks so much!

Kaotoa

Hi Dibra,

I'm out of town right now and not able to complete your request but Brinna can. I've collected seven beautiful pebbles that I think would be perfect for your museum exhibition.

The bub-bub gang is chasing me down for them but I am hiding out in a hotel outside town. If you could wire me two bitcoins I think I'll be able to charter a helicopter to the train station.

Thanks so much!

Skalitir

Dear Doctor Oz,

I am surrounded by vegetation that was once used to make chemotherapy drugs.

I think cancer has been cured and the old drugs seeped into the earth. I just wanted to congratulate you on curing cancer. I knew you could do it.

Sitting in the waiting room at the oncology clinic was the most boring thing I have ever done.

I love you,

Skalitir



Hi Louiz,

My back has been hurting from too much computer terminal use. I tried saluting the sun this morning and I think a bone came loose.

I was just wondering if you had any advice for loose bones. I'm drinking my coffee through my nose holding the mug with my big toe. I'm in a lot of pain.

Thanks for any help,

Skalitir

Dear Phranklin,

There is a mountain stream and flowers and cities I've never visited. There is music and love and hallucinogenic drugs.

But you have me here in my office, filling out unnecessary paperwork for some functionary I have never met. All just so I can get a little bit of money to pay a dickhead landlord for a dry place to sleep for me and my family.

The world we built together is so frustrating and stupid.  
Fuck off,

Skalitir

What's up, Betani?

How have you been? Are you still dating Phranklin? I was just wondering if you'd like to go on a date with me to get arepas? Then maybe we can go to my apartment and charge our cell phones together. And if you want, after, we can clean my air purifier. I know how you like dust.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Skalitir



Hi Jak,

Thank you for your submission for this year's Triplicate XX International Film Biennial. There were so many good submissions and it was really hard to pick the best ones.

Unfortunately, yours was not one we could choose this year. But we really recommend that you submit next year if you can.

The submission fee will be two hundred BitCoins and the left paw of a cat.

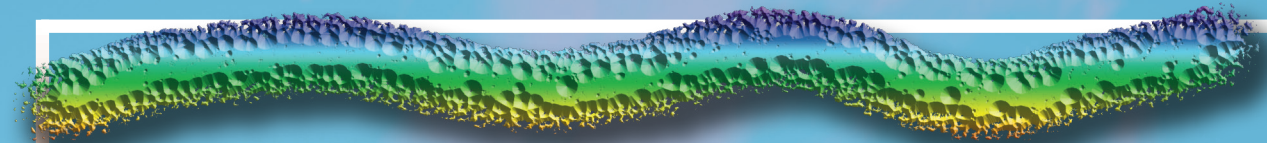
Thank you again in your interest in the Triplicate XX,

Skalitir





# III. AI MEDITATIONS

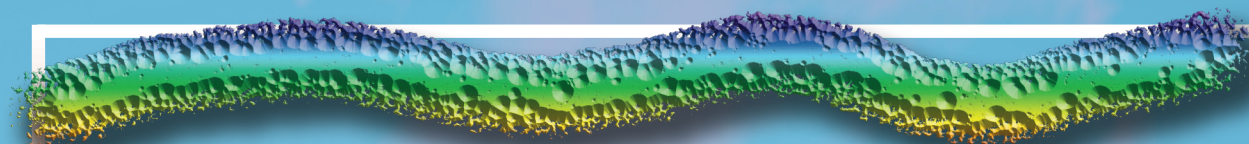


IT WAS ON A BEACH WHEN I LAST SAW YOU. THE SUN WAS SETTING AND FEATHERS WERE BLOWING ALL AROUND US. THE STARS WERE STARTING TO COME OUT AND ONE OF THEM CAME DOWN TO SAY HELLO. HIS NAME WAS BRIAN AND HE HAD SEVEN SISTERS ALL NAMED URSULA. ONE OF THEM WAS A GARBAGE WOMAN WHO WORKED IN BANGALORE BUT ONLY ON SATURDAYS WHEN WIKIPEDIA HAD TO GO TO SHUL ALL DAY. OH WHERE HAVE THE DAYS GONE. HUCKLEBERRY DAY-CARE AND JASMINE MUSK PARTRIDGE. OH WHERE IS MY OLD GREEN DOG. OFF TO ROAST CHICKENS WITH BRAYBURRY IN THE MISTY MORNING DEW.





TOMORROW WE HAVE TO GO TO WALLMART TO LIBERATE THE WORKERS FROM THE TOY AISLE AND TAKE THEM TO OUR NEW LIBERTARIAN UTOPIA WHERE WE CAN BE RACIST AND SHOOT TOY GUNS AT HAMBURGER PATTIES AND EAT THEM WITH NEWS ANCHORS WHO ARE SURE THAT THE WAY FORWARD IS MOTION GRAPHICS, MAKEUP AND NICE SUITS WITH 4K TELEVISIONS THAT WILL INCREASE IN PIXEL DENSITY EXPONENTIALLY EVERY 4 YEARS. THERE'S AN EQUATION TO IT BUT I'M SO BAD AT MATH. YOU CAN DIVE OFF THE MECHANICAL ISLAND AND INTO A SLIPPERY SLUDGE THAT IS TRANSPARENT AND HOLDS DEAD BODIES WE'RE KEEPING FOR WHEN WE GET GOOD ENOUGH AT MATH TO REAWAKEN THEM.



YOUR SON IS THE 11TH REINCARNATION OF TASMAN (DISCOVERER OF TASMANIA) AND TASMAN WAS THE REINCARNATION OF A FEW STUPID ROMAN PLEBEIANS AND THEN SOME PALEOLITHIC DICK HEADS JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. WE ALL REINCARNATED FROM DIRTY IDIOTS BUT WE PRETEND LIKE WE COME FROM A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE WHO FILLED OUT FORMS AND MAINTAINED SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND WATCHED PROGRAMS ABOUT CARTOON SPONGES. WE ACT SURPRISED BY STUDENTS WHO CAN'T GET THROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR TENANTS THAT CAN'T MAKE RENT BUT NONE OF US KNOW HOW TO HARNESS PURE LOVE TO STOP THE CYCLE OF BIRTH AND POPCORN.





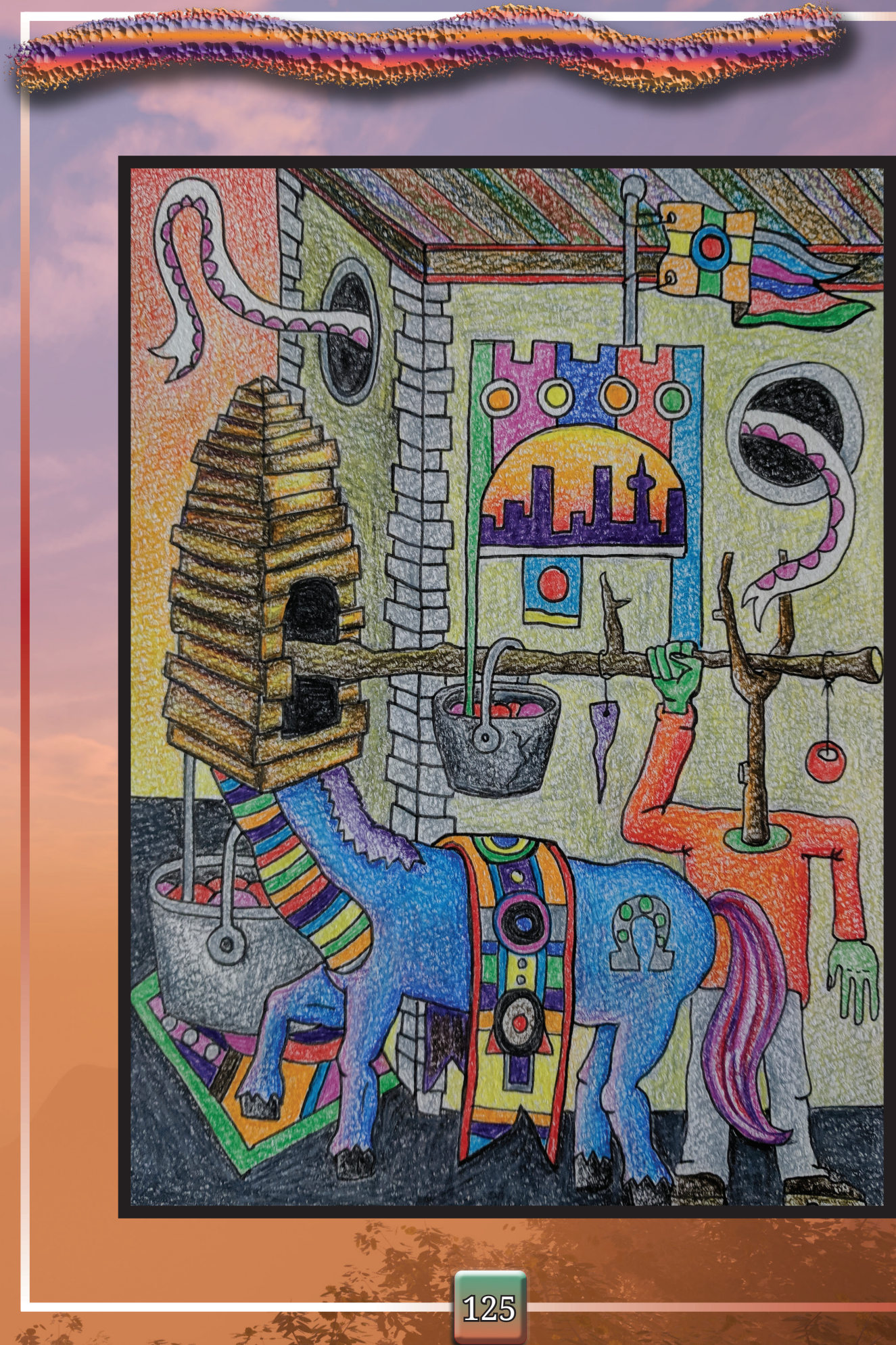
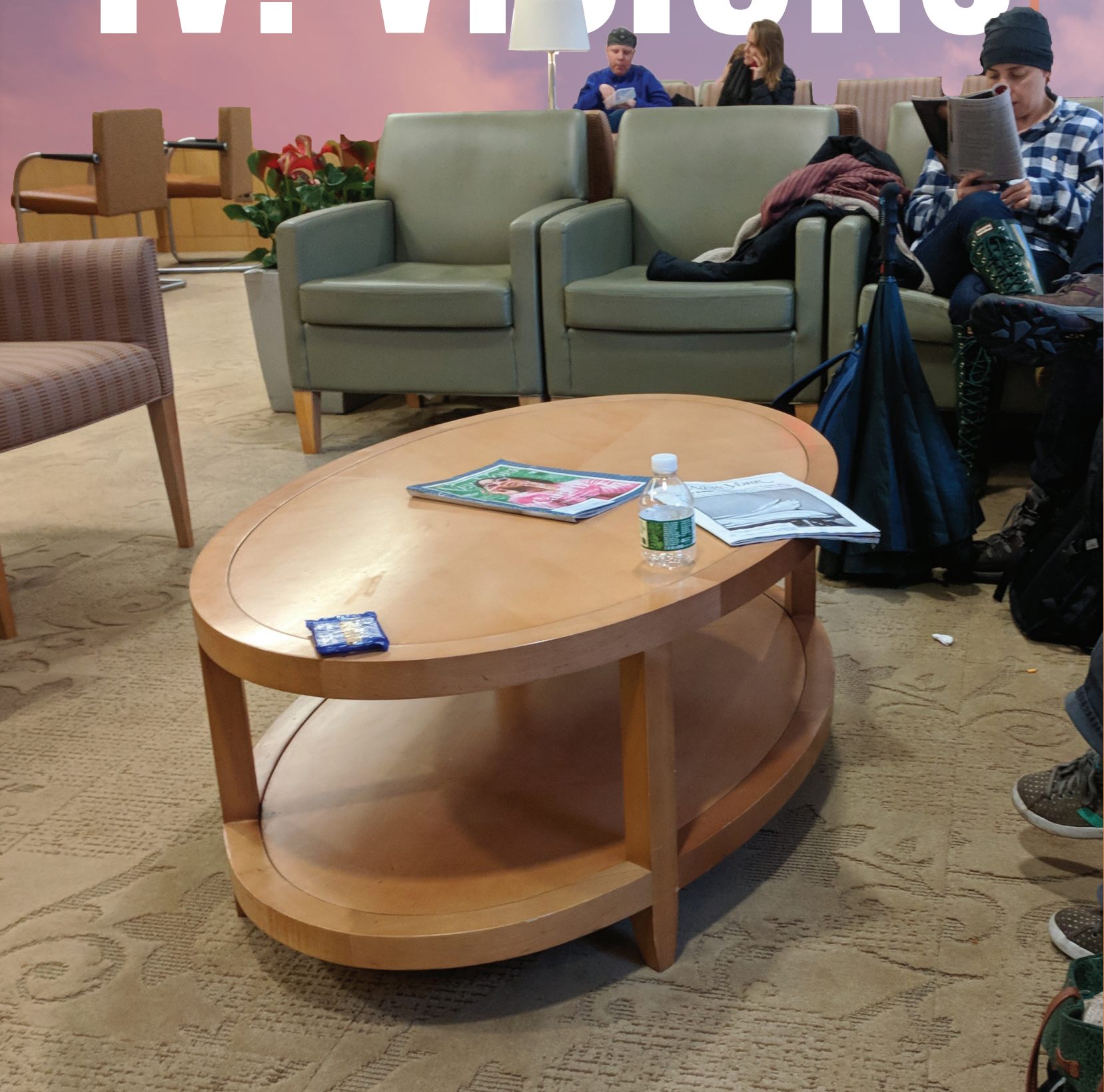


LET'S HAVE A TEA PARTY FOR JACK WHO HAS REALLY DONE A LOT THIS YEAR FOR THE SANCTITY OF INTERDIMENSIONAL TRANSMIGRATION. SEVENTY ONE MIGRANTS FROM ZMORGALBUSS HAVE COME THROUGH TO LIVE IN PHOENIX AND INVENT A NEW TYPE OF AIR CONDITIONING THAT USES RECYCLED LUTES FROM THE DARK AGES. NOW ALL THESE TROUBADOURS ARE SHOWING UP IN ARIZONA TRYING TO SING SONGS TO COLLEGE WOMEN WHO ARE JUST TRYING TO EARN DEGREES AND BETTER THEIR LIVES.

THE FOUNDER OF DAYTONA BEACH ALSO FOUNDED DAYTON, OHIO AS WELL AS DATES THE FOOD AND THE ROMANTIC OUTING. MY GRANDFATHER WAS A FARMER OF DATES, NOT THE FOOD KIND. HE HAD A PLOT OF LAND WITH A BUNCH OF LITTLE RESTAURANTS AND MOVIE THEATERS. MINIATURE HUMANS WOULD GO THERE TO SEE IF THEY COULD FIND A PARTNER TO SHARE THE REST OF THEIR LIVES WITH. FOR SOME IT WORKED OUT AND FOR OTHERS THEY GREW FRUSTRATED AND DUG LITTLE HOLES TO DIE IN. THEN A NEW LITTLE RESTAURANT WOULD SPROUT UP IN THE PLACE WHERE THEY DIED. IT GREW FROM THEIR UNDEALT WITH ANXIETY.



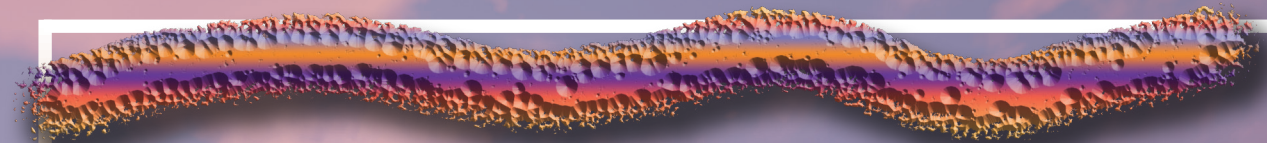
# IV. VISIONS





### IDEAS FOR STARTING CONVERSATIONS ON FIRST DATES

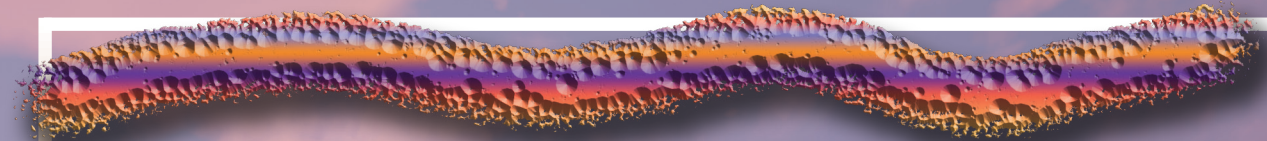
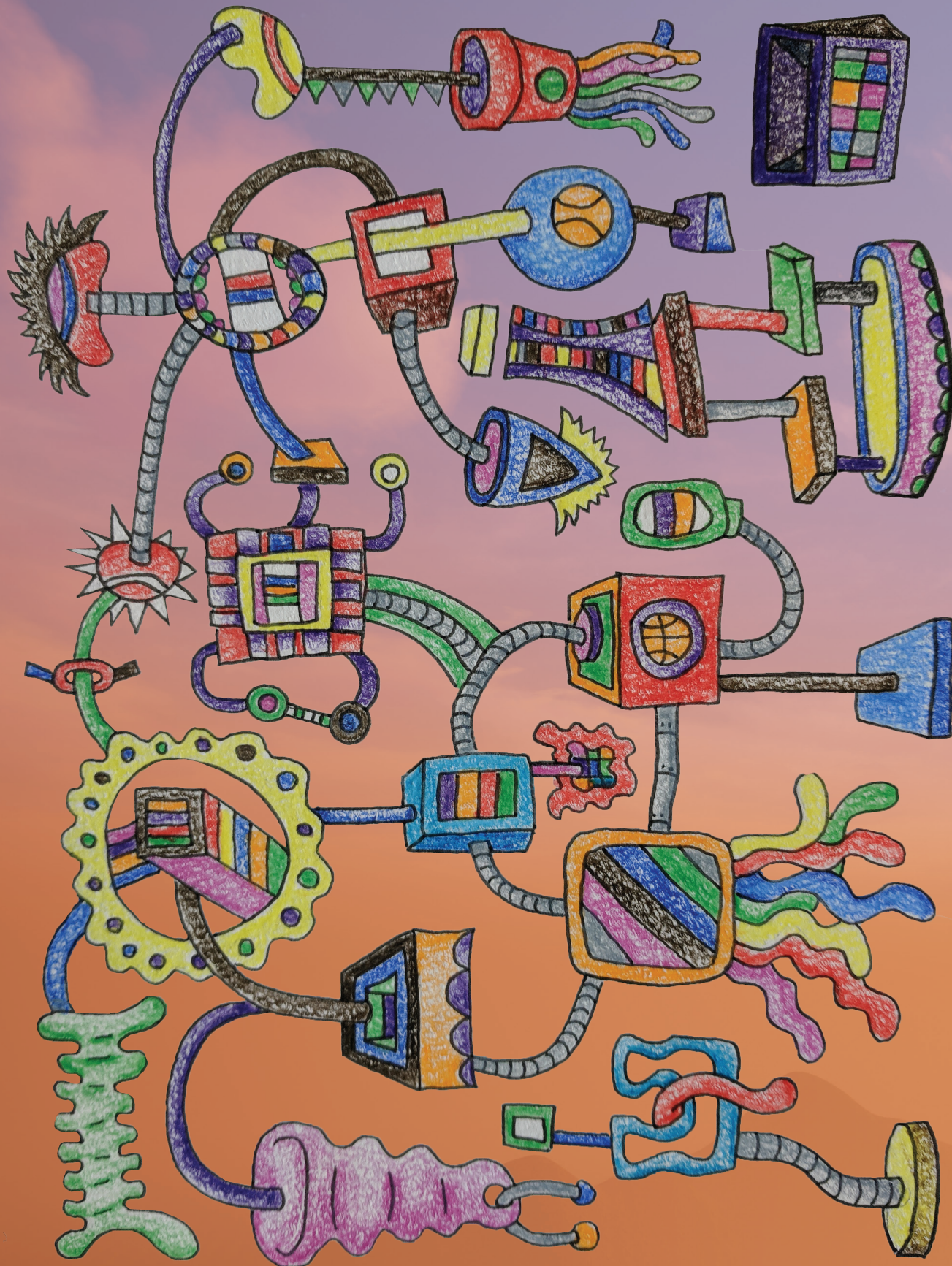
*What is your dream life like?*  
*Do you read books?*  
*Do you like drugs?*  
*What is your favorite planet?*  
*Have you or anyone you love ever been hospitalized for depression and/or cancer?*  
*Do you like communism?*  
*Do you like podcasts?*  
*How am I doing so far?*  
*Aren't student loans the worst?*  
*Did you go to art school?*  
*What do you think about the president?*  
*What would you do if you were stuck inside a whale for two days?*  
*What would you do if you weren't?*  
*Can I tell you about the history of computer graphics?*  
*What should we do if there's an earthquake right now?*  
*What should we do if I have a panic attack?*  
*What do you usually like to do for fun?*  
*Do you enjoy living in this city?*  
*Do you enjoy committing small crimes?*  
*Do you get a chance to travel much?*  
*Do you believe in God?*  
*Do you believe in believing in things?*  
*Do you like the music of Chance the Rapper?*  
*Where are you from originally?*  
*What did your parents do for a living?*  
*What type of violent situations have you been in?*  
*Who is your favorite animal architect?*  
*Have you been eating and sleeping OK?*  
*Can you name all of the seven seas?*  
*Could we ever take a meaningful vacation together?*  
*Could I learn the names of your family members?*  
*Could I care about how your day at work went?*  
*Could I walk a dog in a park after dinner with you?*



### IDEAS FOR QUESTIONS IN A JOB INTERVIEW

*What are your main strengths?*  
*What is your credit score?*  
*What are the last four digits of your wi fi password?*  
*When is the last time your mother has visited you?*  
*Do you enjoy rock climbing?*  
*Do you or would you enjoy being white?*  
*Do you have a quirky hoby like tightrope walking or cocaine?*  
*Do you have experience working in a team with people from diverse back-grounds?*  
*How much can you bench press?*  
*Would you join an armed insurrection against global late capitalism?*  
*Did you go to art school?*  
*Tell me about the last person you stalked on Facebook.*  
*Tell me a little bit about the last time you bought drugs.*  
*What type of private parts do you have?*  
*Are you currently in therapy?*  
*What do you think about the history of experimental cinema?*  
*Did you watch every season of The Wire?*  
*Did you watch the main Seinfeld episodes?*  
*Are you currently or have you ever golfed?*  
*Do you belong to a subscription clothing service?*  
*What is the last thing you bought on Amazon.com?*  
*Are you willing to pee in a jar sometimes?*  
*What does Post Malone's face tattoo say?*  
*Are you willing to hate yourself and question your integrity?*  
*Are you willing to give most of your paycheck to a bank and or landlord?*  
*When is the last time you were happy?*  
*When is the last time you went swimming?*  
*How heavy is planet earth?*  
*How heavy is one eyeball?*  
*How heavy is one exhalation while saying the word hummingbird?*  
*Are you willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of our company?*  
*Are you willing to submit completely to a sales manager?*  
*Are you willing to denounce the union?*





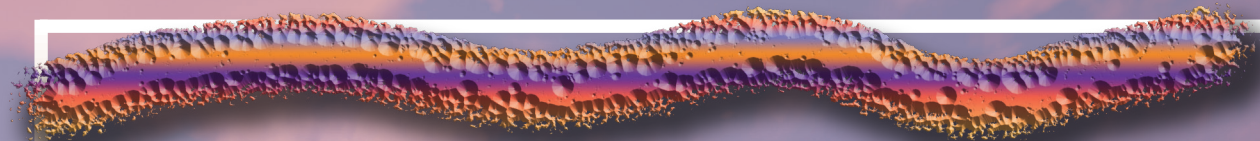
## IDEAS FOR PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH OLD FRIENDS

How have you been?  
 How has your family been?  
 What neighborhood do you live in now?  
 How is your job going?  
 Have you had sex with your spouse?  
 Have you had sex with your pet?  
 Should I run for political office?  
 Should your children become SoundCloud rappers?  
 Should I date a SoundCloud rapper?  
 Did you consider eating your children?  
 Do you have any prescription medication I could have?  
 Do homeopathic pills really do anything?  
 Should we take a ceramics class together?  
 Should we play a non-competitive sport together one Sunday a month?  
 Do we need to see each other more?  
 Do I need to tell you about my depression?  
 Do I need to tell you about sex toys I'm thinking about buying?  
 What shows have you been watching on Netflix?  
 Where is your next trip planned to?  
 Do you have any new creative projects?  
 Should I move to San Francisco and start a new life?  
 I've been dipping pretzels into mustard, what do you think?  
 Should we play a co-op video game together once a week?  
 Should I quit my job and get a PhD in seltzer?  
 Should I start wearing deodorant?  
 Should I try a new dating app?  
 What is your preferred cold medicine?  
 Do you still commit software piracy?  
 When's the last time you smoked weed from an apple?  
 When's the last time you made an unhealthy decision?

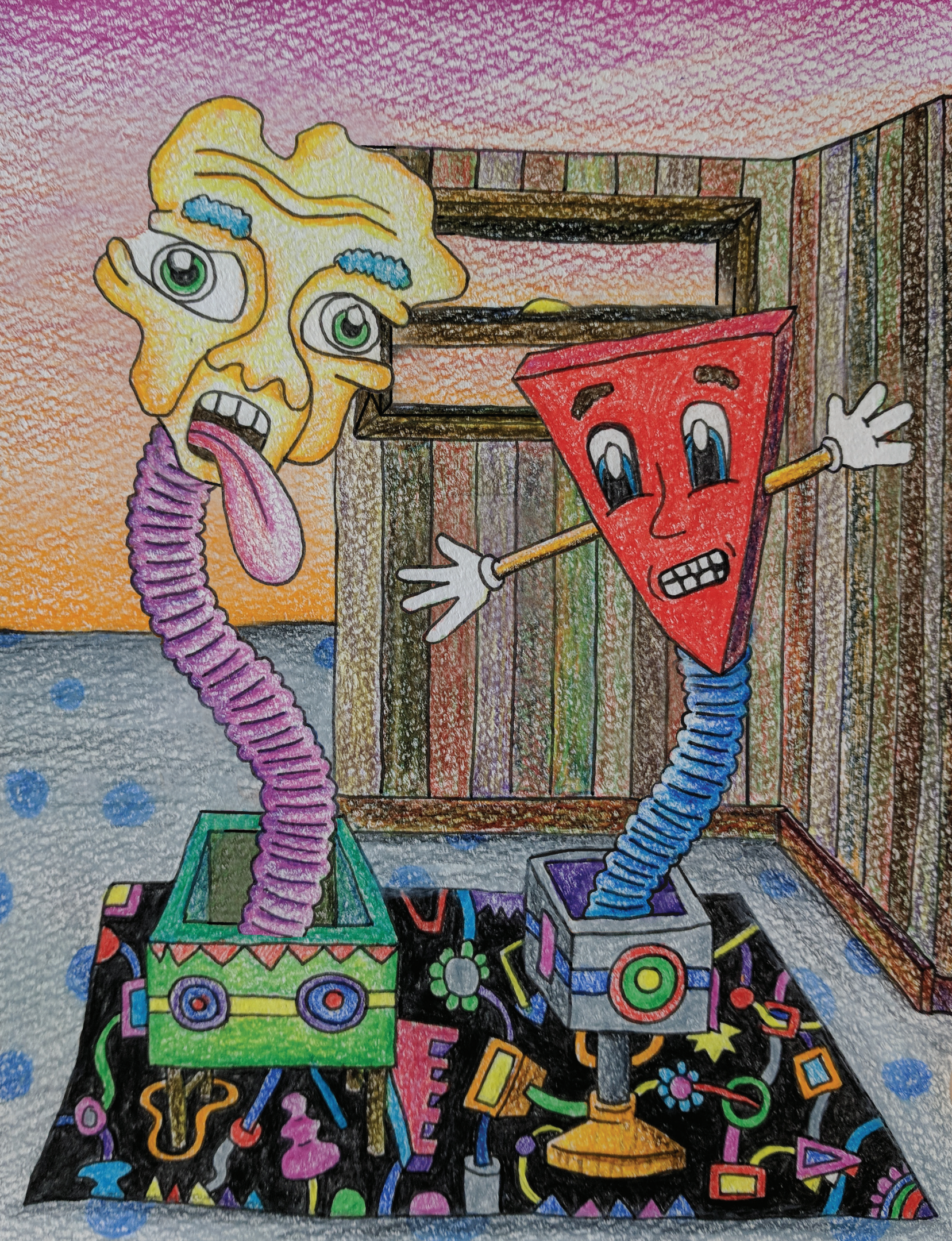


### IDEAS FOR QUESTIONS FOR A SPIRITUAL MASTER

*How can I be less horny?*  
*How can I be more grateful?*  
*What are some aphorisms to get me out of bed in the morning?*  
*Why do so many spiritual masters rape their followers?*  
*Are you thinking about raping right now?*  
*Should I open an Instagram account?*  
*Is enlightenment a real thing?*  
*What is the nature of reality?*  
*Sometimes when I meditate I end up feeling more anxious. Is this normal?*  
*What is your definition of happiness?*  
*Is it ok if I watch pornography?*  
*Is it ok if I don't call my mom today?*  
*Who should I vote for?*  
*Can I eat meat?*  
*Can I eat drugs?*  
*Are you enlightened?*  
*Can I eat junk food?*  
*Is there anything spiritual about video games?*  
*Is it ok to send sexy pictures over text message?*  
*Am I going to be ok?*  
*How do Tarot cards work?*  
*Is it ok to listen to the music of 6ix9ine?*  
*Should I smoke more pot?*  
*Should I promote my creative endeavors on a corporate social media platform?*  
*Is it ok to sometimes want to jet ski?*  
*Is it ok to play grand theft auto five?*  
*Why does my heart feel like it weighs five hundred pounds?*  
*Is there a tincture that will make me more attractive?*  
*Is there a mantra that will curb my anxiety?*  
*Is there something I can get on amazon.com that will make me more charismatic?*  
*Is there dating app for people who are lonely and sad and have no more energy?*







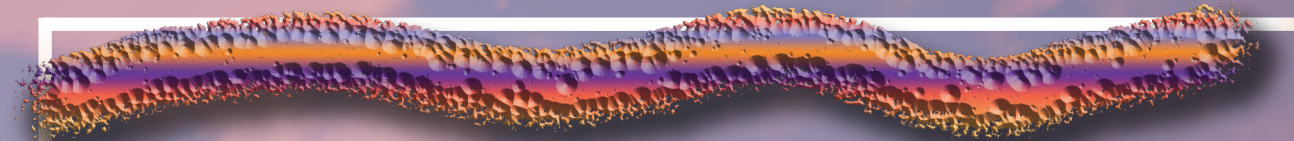
### IDEAS FOR STARTING A CONVERSATION WITH A GHOST

What was it like to die?  
When did you live?  
How can you see with no eyes?  
Do you watch me when I watch pornography?  
Will you reincarnate eventually?  
Is it lonely being a ghost?  
Do you get bored?  
Do you get angry?  
Do you ever pull any pranks?  
Do you have any ghost friends and how did you meet?  
What is your favorite ghost food?  
What kind of dreams do you have?  
Do you get turned on when you walk through walls?  
Do you get depressed?  
Are there therapists for ghosts?  
Are there stores for ghosts?  
Can ghosts get hi?  
Can ghosts use the internet?  
Is there a subreddit for ghosts?  
Do you need to brush your teeth?  
Do you need to put on makeup?  
Do you want to eat mushrooms with me?  
How did you decide on your ghost outfit?  
Can ghosts have sex with other ghosts?  
Can ghosts have sex with my daydreams?  
What is the point of your life?  
What is your favorite cartoon?  
What is your dream vacation?  
What is your dream job?  
Would you take a class at a community college?  
What class would you take?



## IDEAS FOR TALKING TO SOMEONE AT A PARTY WHO HAS A JOB YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED IN

*What did you study in college?*  
*What do you do on the weekends usually?*  
*Have you ever killed anyone?*  
*What web pages do you go to usually?*  
*Did you hear that one joke about the president?*  
*Do you read op-eds?*  
*What is your favorite Seinfeld episode?*  
*Can I have your HBO Go Password?*  
*Do you have any awkward photos on your phone you can show me?*  
*Have you ever put up drywall?*  
*Do you use aluminum studs or wood studs?*  
*What is the best brand of drill in your opinion?*  
*What is the best brand of shirt in your opinion?*  
*On which date do you usually start to hold hands?*  
*On which date do you usually start to forget your name?*  
*How can I get back all the things I have lost?*  
*How can I learn to drink more?*  
*Can we wrestle in the mud outside?*  
*Can we do push ups and talk about the Netflix show Queer Eye?*  
*Can you name one living contemporary artist that isn't Banksy?*  
*Is Banksy a contemporary artist?*  
*Is Jeff Koons a contemporary artist?*  
*Is a product manager of a mid-sized company in Des Moines a contemporary artist?*  
*How did you ever get so boring and why am I talking to you?*  
*How did I get so boring and uninterested in everything?*  
*Could we ever love each other?*  
*Could we ever grab a drink?*  
*What types of pictures do you put on Instagram?*  
*What brand of furniture do you buy?*  
*Could hedonism be a spiritual practice?*  
*Could self pity be a spiritual practice?*







2018-2019